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MINUTES

OF A

CONSPIRACY

AGAINST THE

LIBERTIES OF AMERICA.

Philadelphia:
JOHN CAMPBELL.
MDCCCLXV.

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277
M66
1865

PREFACE.

SHOULD the learned reader find theſe pages crude, trite and meagre, it is hoped he may ſtay his "vengeful hand," when he is told they were compiled by a mere apprentice in the field of knowledge, and amidſt avocations far removed from the paths of literature.

Should it, again, be objected that accuſations ſuch as contained in the pamphlet here republiſhed had better have been left unrecorded, it is humbly ſubmitted, that he who writes hiſtory ſhould write it truly, and that the perfect ſtatue gives a better idea of the ſubject than a baſſo-relievo.

W.

INTRODUCTION.

"CONGRESS, I doubt not, will have heard of the plot that was forming among many diſaffected perſons in this city and government for aiding the King's troops upon their arrival. No regular plan ſeems to have been digeſted; but ſeveral perſons have been enliſted and ſworn to join them. The matter, I am in hopes, by a timely diſcovery, will be ſuppreſſed and put a ſtop to. Many citizens and others, among whom is the mayor, are now in confinement. The matter has been traced up to Governor Tryon; and the mayor appears to have been a principal agent between him and the perſons concerned in it. The plot had been communicated to ſome of the army, and part of my guard engaged in it. Thomas Hickey, one of them, has been tried, and by the unanimous

unanimous opinion of a court-martial, is ſentenced to die, having enliſted himſelf, and engaged others. The ſentence, by the order of the whole council of general officers, will be put in execution to-day at eleven o'clock. The others are not tried. I am hopeful this example will produce many ſalutary conſequences, and deter others from entering into the like traitorous practices." [1]

So, on the 28th June, 1776, wrote Waſhington to the Preſident of the Congreſs, then ſitting at Philadelphia, reſpecting a conſpiracy, whoſe ſtory is thus related by the lateſt of his biographers:

"The wildeſt reports," ſays Waſhington Irving, "were in circulation concerning it. Some of the Tories were to break down King's Bridge, others were to blow up the magazines, ſpike the guns, and maſſacre all the field-officers. Waſhington was to be killed or delivered up to the enemy. Some of his own body-guard were ſaid to be in the plot.

Several publicans in the city were pointed out, as having aided or abetted the plot. One was landlord of the Highlander, at the corner of Beaver Street and Broadway. Another diſpenſed liquor under the ſign of Robin Hood. Another named Lowry, deſcribed as

[1] Sparks's *Waſhington*, III, 140–1.

as a "fat man in a blue coat," kept tavern in a low houſe oppoſite the Oſwego market. Another, James Houlding, kept a beer houſe in Tryon Row, oppoſite the gates of the upper barracks. It would ſeem as if a net work of corruption and treachery had been woven throughout the city by means of theſe liquor dealers. One of the moſt noted, however, was Corbie, whoſe tavern was ſaid to be "to the ſouth-eaſt of General Waſhington's houſe, to the weſtward of Bayard's Woods, and north of Liſpenard's Meadows," from which it would appear that, at that time, the general was quartered at what was formerly called Richmond Hill; a manſion ſurrounded by trees, at a ſhort diſtance from the city, in rather an iſolated ſituation.

A committee of the New York Congreſs, of which John Jay was chairman, traced the plot up to Governor Tryon, who, from his ſafe retreat on ſhipboard, acted through agents on ſhore. The moſt important of theſe was David Matthews, the tory mayor of the city. He was accuſed of diſburſing money to enliſt men, purchaſe arms, and corrupt the ſoldiery.

Waſhington was authorized and requeſted by the committee to cauſe the mayor to be apprehended, and all his papers ſecured. Matthews was at that time reſiding

reſiding at Flatbuſh, on Long Iſland, at no great diſtance from General Greene's encampment. Waſhington tranſmitted the warrant of the committee to the general on the 21ſt, with directions that it ſhould "be executed with preciſion, and exactly by one o'clock of the enſuing morning, by a careful officer."

Preciſely at the hour of one, a detachment from Greene's brigade ſurrounded the houſe of the mayor, and ſecured his perſon; but no papers were found, though diligent ſearch was made.

Numerous other arreſts took place, and among the number ſome of Waſhington's body-guard. A great diſmay fell upon the tories. Some of thoſe on Long Iſland, who had proceeded to arm themſelves, finding the plot diſcovered, ſought refuge in woods and moraſſes. Waſhington directed that thoſe arreſted, who belonged to the army, ſhould be tried by a court-martial, and the reſt handed over to the ſecular power.

According to ſtatements made before the committee, five guineas bounty was offered by Governor Tryon to each man who ſhould enter the King's ſervice; with a promiſe of two hundred acres of land for himſelf, one hundred for his wife, and fifty for each child. The men thus recruited were to act on ſhore, in co-operation with the King's troops when they came.

Corbie's

Corbie's tavern, near Waſhington's quarters, was a kind of rendezvous of the conſpirators. There one Gilbert Forbes, a gunſmith, "a ſhort, thick man, with a white coat," enliſted men, gave them money, and "ſwore them on the book to ſecrecy." From this houſe a correſpondence was kept up with Governor Tryon on ſhipboard, through a "mulatto-colored negro, dreſſed in blue clothes." At this tavern it was ſuppoſed Waſhington's body-guards were tampered with. Thomas Hickey, one of the guards, a dark-complexioned man, five feet ſix inches high, and well set, was ſaid not only to be enliſted, but to have aided in corrupting his comrades; among others, Greene the drummer, and Johnſon the fifer.

It was further teſtifiед before the committee, that one Sergeant Graham, an old ſoldier, formerly of the royal artillery, had been employed by Governor Tryon to prowl around and ſurvey the grounds and works about the city, and on Long Iſland, and that, on information thus procured, a plan of operations had been concerted. On the arrival of the fleet, a man-of-war ſhould cannonade the battery at Red Hook; while that was doing, a detachment of the army ſhould land below with cannon, and by a circuitous march ſurpriſe and ſtorm the works on Long-

Iſland. The ſhipping, then, with the remainder of the army, were to divide, one part to run up the Hudſon the other up the Eaſt River; troops were to land above New York, ſecure the paſs at King's Bridge, and cut off all communication between the city and country.[1]

Much of the evidence given was of a dubious kind. It was certain that perſons had ſecretly been enliſted, and ſworn to hoſtile operations, but Waſhington did not think that any regular plan had been digeſted by the conſpirators. "The matter," wrote he, "I am in hopes, by a timely diſcovery, will be suppreſſed.[2]

According to the mayor's own admiſſion before the committee, he had been cognizant of attempts to enliſt tories and corrupt Waſhington's guards, though he declared that he had diſcountenanced them. He had on one occaſion, alſo, at the requeſt of Governor Tryon, paid money for him to Gilbert Forbes, the gunſmith, for rifles and round bored guns which he had already furniſhed, and for others which he was to make. He had done ſo, however (according to his account), with great reluctance, and after much heſitation and delay, warning the gunſmith that he would be hanged if found out. The mayor with a number of others, were detained in priſon to await a trial.

Thomas

[1] Am. Arch. 4th series, vi, 1177.

[2] Waſhington to the Preſident of Congreſs, June 28.

Thomas Hickey, the individual of Waſhington's guard, was tried before a court-martial. He was an Iriſhman, and had been a deſerter from the Britiſh army. The court-martial found him guilty of mutiny and ſedition, and treacherous correſpondence with the enemy, and ſentenced him to be hanged.

The ſentence was approved by Waſhington, and was carried promptly into effect, in the moſt ſolemn and impreſſive manner, to ſerve as a warning and example in this time of treachery and danger. On the morning of the 28th, all the officers and men off duty, belonging to the brigades of Heath, Spencer, Stirling and Scott, aſſembled under arms at their reſpective parades at 10 o'clock, and marched thence to the ground. Twenty men from each brigade, with bayonets fixed, guarded the priſoner to the place of execution, which was a field near the Bowery Lane. There he was hanged in the preſence, we are told, of near twenty thouſand perſons.

While the city was ſtill brooding over this doleful ſpectacle, four ſhips of war, portentous viſitants, appeared off the Hook, ſtood quietly in at the Narrows, and dropped anchor in the bay.

In his orderly book, Waſhington expreſſed a hope that the unhappy fate of Thomas Hickey, executed

that

that day for mutiny, ſedition and treachery, would be a warning to every ſoldier in the line, to avoid the crimes for which he ſuffered."

Mr. Irving then adds the following note: "As a ſpecimen of the reports which circulated throughout the country, concerning this conſpiracy, we give an extract from a letter, written from Wethersfield, in Connecticut, 9th of July, 1766, by the Reverend John Marſh.

"You have heard of the infernal plot that has been diſcovered. About ten days before any of the conſpirators were taken up, a woman went to the general and deſired a private audience. He granted it to her, and ſhe let him know that his life was in danger, and gave him ſuch an account of the conſpiracy as gained his confidence. He opened the matter to a few friends, on whom he could depend. A ſtrict watch was kept night and day, until a favorable opportunity occurred; when the general went to bed as uſual, aroſe about two o'clock, told his lady he was a going, with ſome of the Provincial Congreſs, to order ſome tories ſeized — deſired ſhe would make herſelf eaſy, and go to ſleep. He went off without any of his aides-de-camp, except the captain of his life guard, was joined by a number of choſen men, with lanterns, and proper inſtruments

inſtruments to break open houſes, and before ſix o'clock next morning, had forty men under guard at the City Hall, among whom was the mayor of the city, ſeveral merchants, and five or ſix of his own life-guard. Upon examination, one Forbes confeſſed that the plan was to aſſaſſinate the general, and as many of the ſuperior officers as they could, and to blow up the magazine upon the appearance of the enemy's fleet, and to go off in boats prepared for that purpoſe to join the enemy. Thos. Hickey, who has been executed, went from this place. He came from Ireland a few years ago. What will be done with the mayor is uncertain. He can't be tried by court-martial, and it is ſaid, there is no law of that colony by which he can be condemned. May he have his deſerts." [1]

Under date of July 4th, 1776, Chriſtopher Marſhall records: "Accounts from New York are, that, Friday laſt, one of General Waſhington's guard was executed in a field near that city for mutiny and conſpiracy, he being one of thoſe who had formed a plot to aſſaſſinate the ſtaff officers, blowing up the magazines and ſecuring the papers of the town on the arrival of the Tyrant George the Third's fleet before this city."

The

[1] Irving's Waſhington, ii, 242, 247.

The reader may alſo conſult Thatcher, Gordon, Watſon and Force's Archives; from the latter of which, however, copious extracts may be found in the notes appended.

Reſpecting the charge againſt the morality of Waſhington — often aſſerted by his cotemporaries — whether true or not, and we ſhould be loathe to believe it, it muſt be recollected, that at that day a laxneſs of ſocial virtue was not viſited with ſo ſevere a cenſure as it is in our own time — and that ſome of the prominent men of the age were not proof againſt temptation, we know from the confeſſions of Hamilton and the intrigues of Burr.

MINUTES

OF THE

TRIAL AND EXAMINATION

OF

CERTAIN PERSONS,

IN THE

PROVINCE OF NEW YORK,

CHARGED WITH BEING ENGAGED IN A

CONSPIRACY againſt the AUTHORITY,
of the CONGRESS,

AND

The LIBERTIES of AMERICA.

LONDON:
Printed for J. BEW, No. 28, PATER-NOSTER-ROW.

M DCC LXXXVI.

[Price ONE SHILLING.]

ERRATA.

Page 5. line 12, for *inſiduous*, read *inſidious*. P. 12. l. 15. for *diſſolve* r. *diſcloſe*. P. 6. l. 10, for *ever*, r. *even*. P. 8, l. 11, for *Diſtreſs County*, r. *Dutcheſs County*. P. 8, l. 20, after brewhouſe *dele* the; and read *one* o'clock in the morning.

PREFACE.

WHILE the city of New-York was in the poſſeſſion of the American army, great numbers of the inhabitants were ſeized, accuſed of being concerned in a conſpiracy, and ſent priſoners into Connecticut. Some were brought to a trial, found guilty, and condemned as traitors. Great diſcoveries, it was ſaid, were made of plots againſt the congreſs. But the trial of the culprits was managed with ſo much ſecrecy that nothing of conſequence tranſpired; ſo that many were induced

induced to believe, that it was an artful ſcheme of the congreſs and committee to puniſh their internal enemies, or prevent them from doing miſchief, without alarming the body of the people.

The following minutes throw much light on the affair. They were diſcovered (on the late capture of New-York by the Britiſh troops) among the papers of a perſon who appears to have been ſecretary to the committee. They will furniſh entertainment to thoſe who wiſh to know the particulars of this myſterious tranſaction.

MI-

MINUTES

OF THE

COMMITTEE, &c.

WILLIAM COLLIER (waiter at the Serjeant's Arms Tavern, kept by Alexander Sinclair, near the old Barracks) waited upon Joſeph Smith, Eſq., in the city, and informed him, that he had ſome affairs of great importance to communicate to him if he could depend upon being ſecured himſelf from danger. Upon which Mr. Smith gave him all poſſible aſſurances, that ſo far from being puniſhed, he ſhould be conſiderably rewarded if his diſcoveries were of any importance. Encouraged by this, he ſaid, that a number of the inhabitants of the city had met for many months at the houſe aforeſaid, that having heard them during his attendance ſpeak very often diſreſpectful of the congreſs, and perceiving them very much engaged in writing letters, and remarking that they always ſuſpended their converſation or ſpoke reſervedly when he was preſent, his ſuſpicions were excited that they did not meet merely for entertainment. On which

which he concealed himſelf in an adjoining chamber, and, among other things, heard them ſpeak of an engagement which had been entered into in that and the neighboring province to free themſelves from what they called the damnable oppreſſion of the congreſs; that he underſtood from their converſation, that arms were diſtributed among their partizans, and that a correſpondence was eſtabliſhed between them and the army, and that they had formed a deſign of riſing and making themſelves maſters of ſome of the principal perſons in the army of the American States, and eſcaping to Staten Iſland; that he learned from their converſation, that a correſpondence for this purpoſe had been kept up between them, and certain perſons in the Britiſh ſervice, to whom they gave information of the ſtate of affairs amongſt us, and from whom they received council and money for the better execution of their deſigns. Mr. Smith queſtioned him concerning the names of the perſons who met at his maſter's houſe, and learned from him, that Mr. Forbes, Garriſon, Cockſhall, Burke, and Sebring, were the moſt active perſons. The provincial congreſs on receiving this information from Mr. Smith, being determined to proceed with the utmoſt caution, ordered a party of men the next night to ſeize Mr. Gilbert Forbes, Gunſmith, and to convey him to ſafe cuſtody; accordingly a party under the command of Capt. Labatteau proceeded about two in the morning to the houſe of Mr. Forbes, in the Broad-way; ſome of them having forced their way into the yard to prevent him making his

his eſcape, the Captain knocked at the front door, and demanded admittance, on its being opened, and finding the culprit was in an upper room in bed, ruſhed up ſtairs, broke open the door, and ſeized him before he could meditate an eſcape. They then required his keys, which, after ſome heſitation, he delivered upon being told that what they did was by the order of the provincial congreſs; they then conveyed him to an apartment in the New Goal, where he was properly ſecured. His papers were delivered to the provincial congreſs, which met the next day, among which were many letters and minutes which threw great light on the deſigns of the conſpirators. The following among many other intereſting ones were read at the board:

Copy of an Aſſociation entered into on the 13th of May, 1776.

1ſt. "We the underwritten being firmly attached to the glorious conſtitution of Great Britain, loyal ſubjects of our gracious Sovereign, King George the Third, and deeply ſenſible of the miſeries brought on this devoted country, by the wicked artifices of an ambitious faction, do heartily and ſincerely covenant and agree and pledge ourſelves to each other by every thing that is honourable and ſacred, that we will diligently and faithfully endeavour to reſtore the conſtitutional government of theſe colonies, and the happy connection that once ſubſiſted between Great Britain and America.

2d.

2d. "That for this purpoſe we will zealouſly put in practice every honeſt method to inculcate loyalty in the minds of the people, to repreſent in their true colours the oppreſſions, inſidious machinations, and cruel perſecutions of an illegal and arbitrary congreſs, and that we will ſeize every opportunity to diſſolve their councils, and fruſtrate their operations: That every member of this aſſociation binds himſelf in the moſt ſolemn and ſacred manner to be faithful to the common cauſe, and to retain with the utmoſt caution the ſecrets committed to him.

3d. "That a committee be appointed for the tranſaction of buſineſs, and for carrying on a correſpondence with the members of this ſociety reſiding in any of the counties of this or neighboring provinces; that the members as many as can, will meet once a week for management of our common affairs.

4th. "That no perſon ſhall be admitted a member except he has paſſed an examination with the committee.

5th. "Should any member of this aſſociation fall under a ſuſpicion, be taken priſoner, or even puniſhed with death by our enemies, he ſhall look upon himſelf as bound in honour and conſcience not to betray any of his aſſociates, or to communicate any of the ſecrets of this ſociety."

The following letters, with the ſuperſcriptions and ſignatures eraſed, were alſo read at the board.

"My

" My dear Friend,

" Our good cauſe thrives moſt wonderfully and providentially hereabouts. We have great hopes that the tyranny of our cruel taſk-maſters will ſoon be ended. The little finger of theſe deſpots is heavier than the loins of the moſt arbitrary miniſtry. They ſhew their ſuperiority only by their cruelty. The people groan under their oppreſſions, and comparing their preſent miſery with their former happineſs and tranquility, long to throw off the yoke. They plunder our barns, enter our houſes, and forcibly take from us what we have ſweated and toiled for; giving us in return nothing but their paltry paper. If we are to be ſlaves, let us be ſo to the lion, and not to the louſy dirty vermin of New England. We have had many meetings lately, and ſo many are deſirous of aſſociating with us, that we are afraid leaſt the ſecret might tranſpire by being communicated to too great a number; we have already two hundred aſſociators in this county who have bound themſelves by the moſt ſolemn aſſeverations to fidelity; we are much at a loſs to know how to act about the oath of allegiance to the congreſs, which 'tis ſaid they intend ſoon to impoſe on us. Heaven ſend us a ſpeedy deliverance. We are well ſupplied with arms, which every man keeps hid, to uſe when occaſion permits, but we are in great want of powder. The drubbing which they had in Canada works wonderfully, and if General Howe ſhould give them one ſound thraſhing, numbers will be ready to fly to his protection; depend upon our conſtancy and fidelity

fidelity. Let us know all your motions that we may co-operate together. This goes by Edward Staggs, a faſt friend to our intereſt. God bleſs the King. Amen."

Diſtreſs County,
May 15, 1776."

Numb. II.

"SIR,

"We hope that according to your promiſe you will have the rifle guns ready by Saturday night, as we ſhall ſend a boat down under the direction of James Clavering, to lie off the old battery, near George Harriſon's brewhouſe; about ten o'clock in the morning he will ſend his negroe man Cuff, to acquaint you with his coming, ſo that if you can get any of our aſſociates who are under arms to conceal them in ſome houſe nigh, we may be able to carry them off. By all means take care and uſe great precautions, for if we ſhould be blown up, we ſhould meet no mercy. Lt. Steele would be the moſt proper perſon to be employed on this ſervice. My love to your wife and children, and to all true hearts under the roſe.

Your's, ever

⋈

Numb. III.

"SIR,

"Embracing this good opportunity, I give you much joy of the death of that arch rebel and firebrand Montgomery,

Montgomery, and hope e'er long it will be the fate of many more. I can't help laughing to ſee the long faces of many of my neighbours on this occaſion ; had I my wiſh their necks ſhould be as long as their faces: by all accounts it has kicked up a devil of an uproar at Carpenters hall, and I ſuppoſe we ſhall very ſoon have another faſt — faſt of the fleſh I mean, for their pious paſtors take care to give the ſaints on ſuch occaſions a ſpiritual *feaſt* of treaſon and rebellion. My neighbor Voorhuys ſays there muſt have been treachery in the caſe, and thinks that Donald Campbell is a very good hand at a retreat. Things go very bravely on with us. The old farmers ſhake their heads, and ſay, this is not the thing, we long to ſee ſome more Engliſh guineas among us. Jabez Fiſher and I have taken occaſion to go much among them, and tell them the deſigns of the congreſs are all impoſition, that they never ſuffered any thing from England, and that we ſhall never be happy till the old times are reſtored, that old John Bull is rouzed at laſt, and that what they thought fear or weakneſs was nothing but mercy and gentleneſs. We now meet frequently at each others houſes, drink the King on our marrow-bones, and confuſion to the congreſs; we have fifty names now down on our aſſociation paper, all ſtaunch hearty fellows, only waiting an opportunity to ſhew our loyalty. I had an affray lately with one of their officers, a Capt. Lefferts, who was quartered in our neighbourhood. He ſent a ſoldier the other day to purchaſe ſome of my poultry, I told him I could not ſpare any;

on which the villain had the impudence to tell me he came by the order of his captain, and would have them. My choler got the better of my prudence, and I puſhed him out of my houſe, and ſhut the door upon him. The captain waited on me the next day, and aſked me how I dared to treat one of the congreſs's ſoldiers and his ſervant in ſo audacious a manner. I told him the property was mine, and would uſe it as I pleaſed; he made no anſwer, but went away in a paſſion, and ſoon returned with a party of his myrmidons, who inſulted me in the groſſeſt manner, took away my poultry, and broke my windows; I have ſince applied to the committee for redreſs, but could not obtain a hearing, as I ſuppoſe they partook of the plunder. Such is our glorious liberty, or rather the liberty, which theſe miſcreants take with us. I hope, however, we ſhall ſoon have ſatisfaction of theſe raſcals. Honeſt Savage is here, and ſends his compliments to you. Kiſs Betſey for me; my ſpouſe deſires to be remembered to you both.

I am,
Your friend and ſervant,

Poughkeepſey, 1776.

———.

The provincial congreſs having taken the above letters under conſideration, and finding from other circumſtances, that a moſt wicked and dangerous conſpiracy

ſpiracy was formed againſt the liberties of America, judged proper to appoint a committee of enquiry, with powers to examine into the nature of it, and to ſit in judgment in bringing to condign puniſhment ſuch perſon or perſons as they ſhould find concerned in it. The following perſons were appointed a committee for the purpoſe.

PRESIDENT.

Peter R. Livingſton.

J. M. Scott,	Peter Curtenius,
Marinus Willett,	John Abeel,
Alex. M'Dougal,	Corn. Byvank,
John Berrian,	John Stoutenburgh,
Herc. Mulligen,	James Weſſels,
Gerſhom Mott,	John Crimſhire.

Gilbert Smith, Secretary.

June 23. The committee met at the houſe of Mr. Jaſper Drake, and proceeded upon buſineſs; Mr. Abraham Livingſton attending, informed the committee, that the night before he waited upon Mr. Gilbert Forbes, at his apartment in the New Goal, and laying before him in the ſtrongeſt colours the danger of his ſituation, and that there was no other way for him to obtain mercy but by making a full confeſſion. The priſoner ſignified to him, that if ſecurity ſhould be given him for his own perſonal ſafety, he would diſcloſe matters of great importance: the

the committee taking into ſerious conſideration this information, ordered the priſoner to be brought before them under a proper guard.

Mr. Forbes being brought into their preſence, diſcovered great ſigns of conſternation and guilt, and with a faultering voice begged the committee would allow him ſome time to compoſe his mind, and permit him to have council to aſſiſt him in his defence, as he was entirely unprepared to anſwer any queſtions, and might prejudice himſelf by his ignorance of the forms uſually practiſed in ſuch caſes.

Preſident. Sir, we ſhall ſhew you all the candour and juſtice you can expect. The queſtions we ſhall put to you are only concerning matters of fact, and if you wiſh for time only to be better able to prevaricate and evade, I inform you that your requeſt cannot be granted. Sir, the crime you are charged with is of a moſt heinous nature, and you are little entitled even to the formality of a trial, nevertheleſs, Mr. Forbes, as we have been informed, you are diſpoſed to ſhew the ſincerity of your repentance by making an ample diſcovery, and wiping off your guilt againſt your country, by enabling us to detect and avert the miſchiefs you intended againſt it, ſuch conduct may recommend you to the clemency and mercy of this court.

Priſoner. I beg, gentlemen, you will not be harſh and haſty with me. I am ſure I never meant any harm againſt my country, but minded the buſineſs of my ſhop; I have been treated very cruelly, torn out of my bed at the dead of night, my ſick wife and family

family alarmed, my papers ſeized, and my houſe ranſacked, without my knowing why or wherefore, and thrown into a priſon, denied the council or aſſiſtance of any friend or acquaintance.

Mr. Mulligen. Sir, Sir! I am ſurpriſed you have the boldneſs to ſpeak in this manner before the committee, after what you have been guilty of. We do not ſit here to hear you criminate, neither will ſuch language avail you. Sir, we have authentic evidence of your having been concerned in a helliſh conſpiracy, and we were informed that you was deſirous of obtaining mercy, by making an honeſt and full confeſſion; as a friend, I adviſe you to conceal nothing, as you hope for pardon.

Mr. Curtenius. Then you know nothing, ſir, of an aſſociation? you never have received any letters from the country containing treaſonable matters? you never met I ſuppoſe at the Serjeant's Arms?

Priſoner. Indeed, gentlemen, I am entirely innocent, I beg you will allow me time to prepare for my defence.

Mr. M'Dougal. Gentlemen, I would recommend that if the priſoner continues obſtinate, he ſhould be remanded to priſon; we have no time for delay; delays are dangerous, gentlemen, the villainous deſigns of our enemies muſt be averted by ſome ſpeedy examples, no puniſhment can be too ſevere for men who have conſpired the ruin of us all.

Preſident. I would adviſe you, Mr. Forbes, ſeriouſly to weigh your critical ſituation, and to plead guilty, for

for we are in no want of proof ſufficient to juſtify us in condemning you to the moſt ignominious puniſhment; if your confeſſion is candid and clear, you may in ſome degree repair the miſchiefs you have occaſioned, and in the name of this committee I promiſe you a full and free pardon, if you will diſcloſe the whole without reſerve.

Priſoner. How, Sir, would you have me to confeſs, when I know nothing that I am guilty of againſt my country. I have aſked you for time and to be tried by a jury of my neighbours, which you refuſe me.

Mr. Livingſton. You are not, I would have you to know, to dictate to the court, we are here to try and judge you by the authority of the congreſs. You will not preſume to diſpute, I hope, its authority. Serjeant call in Mr. Collier.

Collier being ſworn, he depoſed what he told to Mr. Smith, of his having met at the tavern with Mr. Child, Roberts, Abrams, &c. &c. that Mr. Forbes was generally there, and a very active member. The following letter, among others, which were taken at Mr. Forbe's houſe, was read.

" Gentlemen,

" I have been thinking about our ſkeam, and I do think that we cannot take too much care, that the Wigs do not finde us oute, what we are about, as they have two many on there ſide of the queſtione, and may take us up. I propoſe then for us to meet on Satorday alone by hourſelves in the wud near Kingbridge on the left hande ſide of the rode from Yorke,

and

and that eache man ſhud bring a piſtal or cutlaſh with him in order to defende hourſelf, if needfulle. My boye is to bringe me your anſwer, and he knowes nothinge whiche I have wrote,

I am,
Gentlemen,
your hum. ſarvant
in Affictione."

Preſident. Do you know theſe letters ?

Priſoner. They were left with me by a friend among ſome other papers; they were not directed to me, and are none of my concern.

Preſident. Do you know the writers of them ?

Priſoner. They were not ſent to me — I am entirely unprepared — I cannot give anſwers to ſuch queſtions.

(The court having taken into view the obſtinacy of the priſoner, remanded him into cloſe confinement.) Jacobus Lawrence was then brought into court, by Mr. Livingſton, who ſaid he could give ſome information on the buſineſs of the committee.

Jacobus Lawrence ſworn.

Court. You keep a tavern at Hempſtead, on Long Iſland ?

Lawrence. Yes, Sir.

Court. Pray, Mr. Lawrence, do you know the names of the perſons, I think they were ſix in number, that dined at your houſe on Sunday the 9th of June laſt, and do you remember to have heard any of their converſation upon public matters ?

Lawrence.

Lawrence. There was only five, their names I do not know, but they talked to me about lying at my houſe the enſuing plovering ſeaſon; one of them aſked me if I was Whig or Tory? I told him I was for peace: upon which a ſecond ſaid, there never would be peace whilſt ſuch men as compoſed the congreſs had the command. Upon this I was alarmed, and one of them aſked me what was the matter? I ſaid, for God's ſake, gentlemen, take care what you ſay, the honourable congreſs is not to be ſpoken of in this manner.

Court. Could you not diſcover, Mr. Lawrence, where the perſons lived who ſpoke ſo diſreſpectfully of the congreſs.

Lawrence. As I am upon my ſacred oath, I believe they live all of them at New York, but they were entire ſtrangers to me.

Court. Proceed, Mr. Lawrence, and inform the court what more paſſed.

Lawrence. The gentleman at the end of the table, whom I took to be a Scotchman, ſeemed to cough, and then took a pinch of ſnuff; upon this not a word more was ſpoke till I went out of the room.

Court. Do you know, or did you hear any thing more that paſſed?

Lawrence. The ſhrug of the man in the corner raiſed my ſuſpicions, I ſeemed to be very buſy about my buſineſs, but ſet my houſekeeper, Jemima, to liſten.

Court. Can you depend upon the word of Jemima?

Lawrence.

Lawrence. Ever ſince the death of my poor wife, now eleven years, we have lived upon the moſt intimate footing, and I have no reaſon to doubt her in a ſingle thing.

Court. Well, Mr. Lawrence, what did Jemima hear?

Lawrence. She ſaid that one of the men ſaid, that fellow ſeems to love money, ſuppoſe we feel his pulſe on this conſpiracy: as ſoon as the word conſpiracy was mentioned ſhe was alarmed, and called me in, thinking the negroes were going to riſe.

Court. Where do you mean,—into the room where the five perſons were?

Lawrence. No — into the houſe — I was at the door ſerving two cuſtomers from North Side, with a ſmall dram of rum a-piece. She took me aſide and told me there was a plot, or ſomething like it, going forward, and ſaid, ſhe wiſhed thoſe people were out of the houſe.—I ſaid, I would try them again, and ſo made an excuſe to go into the room for ſome gingerbread, which is kept in a cloſet cloſe by; upon this one of the men ſaid to me, Landlord, we ſhall never have peace in America till ſomebody ſerves General Waſhington as he meant to ſerve the plover next ſeaſon.

Court. Did the others hear him ſay this?

Lawrence. Yes; and ſeemed to wait for my anſwer, I told them by way of drawing out of them all I could, (by the holineſs of my oath I meant nothing more) I told them, I wiſhed things were as they uſed to be, but I did not ſee how any body dared to ſhoot ſo great a man as the General; upon this the man with a

ſnuffy face, jumped up and ſaid there was one who could do that eaſy enough; and then aſked me if a good ſum of the old New-York currency would not tempt me to be acceſſary *if I was ſure no harm would happen to me?* I aſked, where the New York currency was to come from; I was told Mr. Lott had reſerved 7000l. which was to be diſtributed among thoſe who would aſſiſt. I ſaid, aſſiſt, to do what? they ſaid, to murder General Waſhington and all the Livingſtons. Upon this I ſaid, that his Excellency was like a ſaint, and the Livingſtons, apoſtles, who opened the eyes of the people in America, and that I ſhould be afraid of being hanged if I was knowingly to hurt a hair of their heads; upon this the Scotchman ſhrugged up his ſhoulders, and all were ſilent. I was deſired to ſtep out, but they ſoon after called me in again, and one of them gave me ten dollars to ſwear ſecrecy, which I was then tempted to do, but am now ſorry for it.

This was the ſubſtance of the evidence given in by Mr. Lawrence.

Mr. MacKeſſon then acquainted the committee, that Joſeph Finch waited at the door, who was deſirous of giving the court very important information. The committee ordered him in accordingly. He ſaid if the congreſs would ſecure him from injury or puniſhment, he would diſcloſe matters of much conſequence.

The committee pledged their honour that he ſhould be ſafe, and promiſed withal a conſiderable reward, if he was open and clear in his diſcovery. Finch ſaid, he was a joiner by profeſſion, and was working at the houſe

houſe of Gerardus Beekman, commonly called Dr. Beekman, who being in a good humour, he was called up ſtairs, and aſked to drink ſome wine; the doctor called him a damned honeſt fellow, chucked him under the chin, and aſked if he loved his Majeſty; he ſaid he would ſhed the laſt drop of his blood for him. The doctor treated him with a bottle of what he called his eight-year-old, and then having found him hearty in the cauſe, carried him to the Serjeant's Arms.

Preſident. What time did this happen?

Finch. About the 20th of May laſt.

Preſident. Do you remember any perſons that were preſent?

Finch. Yes. There was Mr. Henry Foſter, James Matthiſon, Nicholas Antony, Thomas Degruſhe, Henry Carman, and many others, whom, if I had time, I could recollect.

Preſident. What was the ſubject of converſation?

Finch. They talked much that night againſt the cruelty of the congreſs, and the cowardice and inſults of the New-England men, and of their hopes the former government would be ſoon reſtored.

Preſident. Go on, ſir, and tell us what you deem moſt material.

I was ſent ſome time after with letters to different parts of the country, encouraging them to union, and conveying money for purchaſing arms and ammunition.

Preſident. To what places were you ſent?

Finch. To New Rochel, Poughkeepſey, Weſt Cheſter, Albany, and many other places.

Court.

Court. To what perſons were the letters directed?

Finch. I cannot at preſent mention them particularly, but I have carried ſome to Thomas Fiſher, John Amos, James Savage, Samuel Jenks, and many others, with whom I had many meetings, and much ſerious converſation, upon public affairs, and brought their anſwers back.

The committee then thought proper to give Mr. Finch time to recollect himſelf, and appointed three of their body to meet him the next morning, in order to take his information more fully and deliberately.

James Ming was then called in, and being ſworn, depoſed.

Ming. I am by trade a ſhoemaker, and live in Carman-ſtreet, being ſent for one day to Jacob Duryee, after paying me for ſome work I had done for the family, Mr. Duryee aſked me what I thought of the times. I told him, bad enough. He ſaid he wiſhed there never had been a congreſs in the world; I told him it might be ſo. He then talked much to me of the high price of things, and aſked me if I did not wiſh to ſee the good old times again? I ſaid, yes; on which he gave me a glaſs of wine, and drank to the King and Parliament, which I did too. He then told me that a number of friends to England, would be glad to ſee me or any other honeſt man, on whom they could depend. I told him I would never act unhonourably. He deſired me to be huſh, and he would propoſe

propoſe me to be a member; that it ſhould coſt me nothing. I then left him, and went home.

Mr. Curtenius. Did he ſay nothing to you concerning giving aid to General Howe, or information? Did'nt you imagine that was what he meant, when he ſpoke of the friends to England?

Ming. No, Sir, not at that time, but afterwards; if you pleaſe, I'll tell the whole affair as it happened. The next week Mr. Duryee and Mr. Anthony came to me, and after ſeeing every one out of the ſhop, told me I was admitted a member of their ſociety. I went with them to the Serjeant's Arms, and was carried into a room joining to the room where the ſociety met.

Mr. Byvanck. Was no oath tendered to you?

Ming. None but an aſſociation paper or bond.

Mr. M'Dougal. Was it this? (Clerk hands him the aſſociation found among Mr. Forbes' papers.)

Ming. Yes, to the beſt of my knowledge and remembrance, the very ſame.

Court. What perſons were at the meeting? Do you remember the tenor of the converſation?

Ming. It was ſomething very violent againſt the congreſs, and about reſtoring the old government.

Court. Do you recollect any thing that was ſaid about the diſtributing arms, giving information of the proceedings in our camp, or of betraying General Waſhington?

Ming. I can't ſay anything to that. I heard no particulars.

William

William Cooper, ſoldier, ſworn.

Court. Inform us what converſation you heard at the Serjeant's Arms?

Cooper. Being there the 21ſt of May, I heard John Clayford inform the company, that Mary Gibbons was thoroughly in their intereſt, and that the whole would be ſafe. I learnt from enquiry that Mary Gibbons was a girl from New Jerſey, of whom General Waſhington was very fond, that he maintained her genteelly at a houſe near Mr. Skinner's,—at the North River; that he came there very often late at night in diſguiſe; he learnt alſo that this woman was very intimate with Clayford, and made him preſents, and told him of what General Waſhington ſaid.

Court. Did you hear Mr. Clayford ſay any thing himſelf that night?

Cooper. Yes; that he was the day before with Judith, ſo he called her, and that ſhe told him, Waſhington had often ſaid he wiſhed his hands were clear of the dirty New-Englanders, and words to that effect.

Court. Did you hear no mention made of any ſcheme to betray, or ſeize him?

Cooper. Mr. Clayford ſaid he could eaſily be ſeized and put on board a boat, and carried off, as his female friend had promiſed ſhe would aſſiſt: but all preſent thought it would be hazardous.

William Savage, ſworn.

Court. Was you at the Serjeant's Arms on the 21ſt of May? Did you hear any thing of this nature?

Savage.

Savage. I did, and nearly as the laſt evidence has declared; the ſociety in general refuſed to be concerned in it, and thought it a mad ſcheme.

Mr. Abeel. Pray, Mr. Savage, have not you heard nothing of an information that was to be given to Governor Tryon?

Savage. Yes; papers and letters were at different times ſhewn to the ſociety, which were taken out of General Waſhington's pockets by Mrs. Gibbons, and given (as ſhe pretended ſome occaſion of going out) to Mr. Clayford, who always copied them, and they were put into his pockets again.

Court. What was done with theſe papers?

Savage. They were read at the table, copied, and ſent off.

Court. Where were they ſent? and by what conveyance?

Savage. They were given to Mr. Matthews, who ſent them on board the Ducheſs of Gordon.

Court. Had they no other accounts but thoſe communicated by Mrs. Gibbons.

Savage. Yes; many other papers and letters were read, and I was told they had information by an officer, a gentleman of high rank and diſtinction, near General Waſhington, and in his confidence.

Court. Could you find out who he was?

Anſwer. No.

Court. By whom was his intelligence communicated?

Savage. By Mr. Vanderbergh.

Court.

Court. You cannot give any reaſon to ſuſpect what officer it was?

Savage. No; I could not learn who it was; but was often told that he was a gentleman in whom General Waſhington placed great confidence, and relied much upon.

The Court ordered him to withdraw, and the room to be cleared.

Mr. Livingſton. In my opinion, gentlemen, we had better defer examining any more witneſſes till we can conſult General Waſhington, and ſome other officers, upon what has appeared.

Mr. Scott. I think we have no time for delay, we may run through an examination of the witneſſes, as this court is an independent one, for the good of the public, and no time ſhould be loſt in coming at the bottom of this horrid affair.

Court. It would be but juſtice to the General, as he is ſome way affected by the laſt witneſſes to apprize him of it, and conſult with him, in the mean time the other ſuſpected persons ſhould be ſeized as ſpeedily as poſſible.

The court accordingly adjourned till the 26th.

During this interval the committee had many conferences on the ſubject with General Waſhington, and many other officers. They had alſo private examinations of the priſoners. Orders were iſſued to ſeize the perſons of John Wiley, Norman Ptolomy, Totten and Croſsfield; and information being given that a number of the conſpirators were concealed at and near Jamaica,

Jamaica, Long Iſland, a party of horſe were ordered to take them, under the command of Capt. Willett. When they reached Jamaica, they found the conſpirators, to the number of eighteen, had retired to a wood on the top of a hill, determined to defend themſelves. Captain Willett got a ſmall reinforcement, and then ſurrounded the eminence where they were poſted; a briſk fire enſued as our people approached, and they obſtinately continued to reſiſt, till having loſt one man, and others being dangerouſly wounded and diſabled, they thought proper to ſurrender, and were brought priſoners to New York.

June 29. The congreſs taking into ſerious conſideration the number of diſaffected perſons in the province, and the danger of keeping them in the city, thought fit to ſend two hundred of them into Connecticut, to be kept in the different priſons till they could be brought conveniently to trial.

It having appeared from ſtrong evidence and many circumſtances, that David Matthews, Eſq., Mayor of the City, was an aider and abetter of the conſpiracy, and alſo the principal manager of an illegal correſpondence, he was ſeized by order of the provincial congreſs, and committed to the New Goal; on the 3d of July, the committee again met, and ordered James Clayford to be brought before them.

The priſoner being at the bar and ſworn,

Mr. Mott told him, by order of this committee, I inform you that we have the cleareſt evidence of your

having been treacherouſly concerned, in obtaining information and papers relating to public affairs, which you delivered to certain perſons to be conveyed to the enemy; that in privacy and covenant with Mary Gibbons, you felonioufly and ſecretly copied writings of the commander in chief, which were afterwards ſent to be communicated to the foes of America; that you in your heart conceived and propoſed a plan to ſeize on the perſon of General Waſhington, and carry him off as a priſoner to the mercenary army. What have you to anſwer to theſe charges, or to ſay why you ſhould not be made an example of?

Priſoner. I labour under every diſadvantage, having no one to ſpeak for me, and not being tried by a jury, but I have confidence in the humanity of this court ——— Do not be ſevere with me, gentlemen, nor ſhed the blood of an innocent man. I beg that I may hear the evidences againſt me examined before my face.

Mr. Mulligen. You do not deſerve ſuch a favor, we are well ſatisfied of your guilt, and that you ought long ago to have ſuffered your deſerts.

Mr. Abeel. I think it will not take much time to re-examine the witneſſes, not that I have any doubt of his guilt, but to give him no cauſe of complaint at our proceedings.

The committee agreed to it, and James Myer, Thomas Lefferts, and Peter Goff were ſworn. They depoſed what has been before related, that the priſoner often attended the meeting of the conſpirators, at the

Serjeant's

Serjeant's Arms, and that he uſed frequently to boaſt of his amours with Mrs. Gibbons; that he propoſed with this woman's aſſiſtance to ſeize General Waſhington's perſon, and carry him off; that he frequently brought papers and letters of the General's to the ſociety, which were copied and ſent away.

Priſoner. Remember, Mr. Goff, you are upon oath, and that my life depends on it. As to my connection with Mrs. Gibbons I do not deny it, but never was concerned in any conſpiracy. You muſt know, Mr. Goff, that I only ſaid at the ſociety, that ſuch a thing as ſeizing General Waſhington might be done, but I never agreed to or thought of doing it, nor did any perſon preſent propoſe or adviſe it.

Goff. Yes; you often propoſed it, and offered your ſervice, and ſaid Mrs. Gibbons would aſſiſt; and they applauded it, and drank your health.

Mr. Byvank. Have you nothing farther to ſay in your defence?

Priſoner. I have been treated cruelly, tried without judge or jury; it's nothing but a ſcheme to puniſh the innocent, and get clear of honeſt people.

Court. It is our opinion that you are guilty, and you are to be re-manded to the goal from whence you came, and we recommend to you to prepare for that death you deſerve, and to which you are condemned by the authority of your country.

The priſoner was then very abuſive, calling the court tyrants and murderers, but the guard hurried him away.

July

July 6. The congreſs received an account from Albany, that a body of Tories were detected in a deſign of firing the town, and blowing up the magazines, and that ſome of the principal perſons in the country were concerned in it. It appears that they have a correſpondence through the whole province and neighbouring colonies, and propoſed to riſe and make themſelves maſters of the fortreſſes, and diſarm their enemies. Many of them were ſeized in Albany, but they would make no confeſſion, and were thrown into goal. Scouts and parties were ſent out in every county to watch and ſecure the inſurgents, about ninety have been taken in Albany and its neighborhood. It appeared that a body of fifty Tories roſe at Poughkeepſey, and attempted to diſarm our friends, but after an obſtinate engagement, in which five of them were killed, the reſt were taken priſoners, and ſent to Ridgefield. The congreſs taking theſe things into mature deliberation, reſolved that ſome examples ſhould be made, and accordingly ordered that James Clayford under condemnation, ſhould be ſpeedily executed.

July 7. The committee met, and ordered David Matthews, late Mayor of the city to be brought before them.

Mr. Mathews being brought in, caſt a look of contempt on the court, and affected to treat it with deriſion.

Preſident. We ſit here by the authority of the people to enquire into a moſt horrid conſpiracy, with powers

powers to acquit or puniſh, as evidence ſhall appear. You are charged, Sir, with being a principal adviſer and abettor of ſchemes againſt your country; we have evidence of your having attended an unlawful meeting, aſſociated for the purpoſe of overturning the preſent conſtitution, and introducing the old tyranny. It appears that you have kept up a correſpondence with men adjudged enemies to this country, and have diſtributed money in order to procure intelligence for them. If you have anything to ſay, we are ready to hear it.

Priſoner. This is a new mode of trial to hurry a man to priſon without letting him know his crime, to ſeize his papers and put armed men into his houſe, and then examine him in a private manner, without a jury of his peers, or giving him any information of his accuſers, or allowing him to prepare for his defence. I ſcorn your mercy, and am ready to ſuffer for my King and country.—If I am to undergo the formality of a trial, let it be in the accuſtomed manner, by a jury.

Mr. Mac Dougal. Sir, we are ready to do you all the juſtice you can aſk; but we expect not to be bullied and cavaliered in this manner. We have told you the authority by which we act, and if you chuſe to examine any witneſſes, or make a defence we are ready to hear it.

Priſoner. I am ſenſible all defence will be vain with men thirſting after blood. How many fathers have you already torn from their families and thrown into priſon,

priſon, only for difference of ſentiment? If my principles are my crime, I never made a ſecret of being a friend to the King and conſtitution. You know yourſelves that the conſpiracy you talk of is a mere pretence to puniſh. The people you have thrown into priſon were guilty of no other miſdeeds than meeting in a ſocial manner, and expreſſing their wiſhes for the reſtoration of the old conſtitution; they could not hurt you, when you are ſurrounded with ſo formidable an army in your ſervice: they never were mad enough to attempt ſo wild a project. All they have done is to declare their opinions freely, during the openneſs of ſociability and wine. I am ſenſible of no other proceedings of the ſociety, and am privy to no ſcheme of ſo mad and improbable a nature. You muſt, therefore uſe your pleaſure, for I cannot in my conſcience admit of any authority in this body, to try and confine, or puniſh any ſubject of England.

Court. Call in the evidences; if Mr. Matthews does chuſe to aſk them any queſtions, the court will hear them again and give him a full opportunity. James Myers, Stephen Prince, Thomas Lefferts, and Peter Goff, were ſworn—They depoſed that they had often ſeen the priſoner very active at the meeting of the conſpirators; that the papers given to the ſociety by Clayford, were put into his hands to be communicated to the enemy. That he often diſtributed money among the members, and encouraged them in their oppoſition to the congreſs: that they heard him on the 20th of May ſay, that the day was not far diſtant when

when the bodies of the congreſs would be food for crows, that he often called the congreſs tyrants, and exhorted the members to union, patience, and fidelity.

Priſoner. I would not be underſtood to acknowlege the authority of this committee, but I muſt not even here, for I would no where elſe, ſuffer an act of charity to be perverted. I attended theſe meetings, I do not deny, out of affection to the conſtitution, but never had any notion ſo abſurd as a conſpiracy, to be managed and conducted at a tavern, in the hearing of waiters and promiſcuous company: the money I diſtributed was only out of benevolence, and in pity for the diſtreſs of many of the members, who are honeſt men ruined by the times. I hope the congreſs will not call this treaſon. I hope they will not call it treaſon for us to meet and conſult together for the ſupport of our families, this is all the treaſon we have meant, to aſſiſt each other, to contribute and comfort thoſe friends to government who were in want———. (Here the court interrupted him.

Court. If you have nothing more worthy of our attention to offer but ſuch abuſe and bare-faced fallacies, we muſt order you back to the place from whence you came. We are convinced of your guilt, and recommend you to make a confeſſion and repent of your crimes. Your confeſſion may entitle you not only to mercy, but if you diſcover ſincerity in your reformation, a perſon of your ſtation and influence, may expect every favour from your country.

Priſoner. I can receive no favour on any ſuch diſhonourable

diſhonourable conditions. I avow my principles, and ſhall never ſwerve from them: but I would entreat you to have ſome pity (not on me) but on the numberleſs helpleſs families that you expoſe to ruin, by carrying away their innocent fathers, huſbands, and brothers. I only aſk you for myſelf to give me an interview with General Waſhington, from him I may expect the treatment of a gentleman.

Court. You have been uſed with juſtice and civility. If you have nothing further to ſay, let the guards convey him into ſafe cuſtody, and give him every thing convenient.

July 8th. The provincial congreſs having received the report of the committee, came to a reſolution that David Matthews, late mayor of the city, having been fully convicted, and proved guilty of treaſonable practices, tending to the ſubverſion of our preſent happy government, deſerves no longer to live, and is therefore ſentenced to ſuffer death as a common malefactor, on the 25th day of Auguſt next.

Auguſt 1. The congreſs in full meeting reſolved to poſtpone the execution of the ſentence paſſed on David Matthews, Eſq., *ſine die*, and ordered him to be carried into Connecticut, there to be kept impriſoned 'till further orders.

The trial of the other priſoners was alſo deferred, and ſtrict commands given to detect, and purſue ſuch as were ſtill concealed, that they might be preſerved in ſafe cuſtody till the times would render it convenient to bring them to trial.

FINIS.

NOTES.

NOTES.

Page 5. *Louſy, dirty, vermin of New England.*

"THE antipathy prevailing between the Southern and Eaſtern troops, had been the cauſe of a court-martial, of which I was a member, upon the conduct of Lieutenant Stewart of Smallwood's regiment, better known by his ſubſequent title of Major Jack Stewart. He had been arreſted by General Silliman, on account of ſome alleged diſreſpect or diſobedience to that officer. As the majority of the court were Southern men, it was not at all wonderful that Stewart was ſoon acquitted with honor. In ſo contemptible a light were the New-England men regarded, that it was ſcarcely held poſſible to conceive a caſe, which could be conſtrued into a reprehenſible diſreſpect of them. Thinking ſo highly as I now do of the gentlemen of this country, the recollection is painful, but the fact muſt not be diſſembled. Even the celebrated General Putnam, riding with a hanger belted acroſs his brawney ſhoulders, over a waiſtcoat without ſleeves (his summer coſtume), was deemed much fitter to head a band of ſicklemen or ditchers, than muſketeers. He might be brave, and had certainly an honeſt manlineſs about him; but it was thought, and perhaps with reaſon, that he was not what the time required. We had a regular army to oppoſe and this could only be done by diſcipline and regular ſoldierſhip."—*Graydon*, 178–9, ed. 1846.

"However,

"However, as they [Provincials] (especially the Connecticut soldiers, whom some pronounce the dirtiest people on the Continent) are not particularly attentive to cleanliness, the owners of the houses where they are quartered, if they ever get possession of them, must be years in clearing them, unless they get new floors, and new plaster the walls." "The particular jealousies and prejudices of the continental troops from the different states, led them frequently to throw out reflections tending to irritate each other and injure the common cause; so that the commander-in-chief interposed his influence to suppress it by general orders [Aug. 1, 1776]." "A brigadier writes concerning the animosity in the American army above noticed. 'It has already risen to such a height, that the Pennsylvania and New-England troops would as soon fight each other as the enemy. Officers of all ranks are indiscriminately treated in a most contemptible manner, and whole colonies traduced and vilified as cheats, knaves, cowards, poltroons, hypocrites, and every term of reproach, for no other reason, but because they are situated east of New-York. Every honor is paid to the merit of good men from the south; the merit, if such be possible, from the north is not acknowledged; but if too apparent to be blasted with falsehood, is carefully buried in oblivion. The cowardice or misbehaviour of the south is carefully covered over, the least misconduct in the gentlemen of the north is published with large comments and aggravations.'"—*Gordon*, II, 49, ed. N. Y. 1789, *et seq.*

Page 6. *Death of Montgomery.*

GENERAL MONTGOMERY was born in the north of Ireland in 1737, and was in the English army with Wolfe at Quebec. In 1772, he quitted the army, settled in America, and married a daughter of R. R. Livingston. On the opening of hostilities with the mother country, he espoused the cause of the colonists, and fell at Quebec December 31, 1775.

"Every mark of distinction was shown to the corpse of General Montgomery, who was interred in Quebec on the 2nd of January, 1776. In 1818, his body was removed, in accordance with an act of the New-York Legislature, and re-interred at St. Paul's churchyard in New York city."—*Diary Revolution*, I, 186.

"*On the Death of General Montgomery.*

BY BRYAN EDWARDS.

Montgomery falls! let no fond breaſt repine
That Hampden's glorious death, brave chief, was thine,
With his ſhall Freedom conſecrate thy name—
Shall date her riſing glories from thy fame—
Shall build her throne of empire on thy grave—
What nobler fate can patriot virtues crave!"

—*New Foundling Hoſpital for Wit*, ed. 1786, vol. VI, p. 7.

Page 7. *Carpenter's Hall.*

WHERE the congreſs was ſitting in Philadelphia.

Page 7. *Donald Campbell,*

WAS Quartermaſter General to the army of the north, and with Montgomery at Quebec; upon that general's death, he aſſumed command, and ordered a retreat, leaving behind him fifteen dead bodies of the detachment, among whom was that of Montgomery himſelf. His conduct was "anathematized in unmeaſured terms," and all aſcribed to him the failure of an expedition well planned, and which certainly, by one portion of the army, had been efficiently executed.—*Lamb's Memoirs.*

Page 20. *General Waſhington.*

TO the following ſtanza from "God Save the King!" by Stanſbury, and to be found in the "*Loyal Verſes of Stanſbury and Odell*, Albany, 1860. "That admirable ſcholar, the editor, Mr. Winthrop Sargent, has appended a note ſo comprehenſive, that it is given almoſt entire, herewith.

"Time

" Time was, in defence of his King and the Right,
We applauded brave Waſhington foremoſt in fight:
On the banks of Ohio he ſhouted luſtily
God ſave the King!
Diſappointed ambition his feet has miſled;
Corrupted his heart and perverted his head:
Loyal no longer, no more he cries faithfully
Glory and joy crown the King!"

" To caſt a ſlur on the character of Waſhington would, to-day, be the act, if of an American, of a very ſilly or a very diſhoneſt man. The latitude of party heats and perſonal rivalries permitted a leſs reſtrained conduct during his life-time. The Tories had ſurely ſome excuſe for ſpeaking bitterly of the only man by whom the American armies could have been led to victory and independence; for the vanquiſhed party has in all times poſſeſſed at leaſt the privilege of murmuring againſt its conqueror. But it muſt not be forgotten that long before and long after the war, as well as through its continuance, Waſhington was the object of the envy and calumny of others than the adherents of the Engliſh crown. The earlieſt public outrage offered to his character, appears in the official *Mémoire*, ſent in 1756, by Louis XV. to the other ſovereigns of Europe, in which, referring to Waſhington's Ohio expedition and the death of Jumonville, in 1754, he says: "*Il paroît que l'impoſture ne coûte rien à M. Waſhington; ici il s'en fait honneur.*" It is amuſing to find that Beaumarchais in 1779, replying to Gibbon's ſtatement and juſtifying the aid given by France to America, heads his liſt of outrages exercifed by England with this charge of aſſaſſination! He did not know that the falſehood hit the chief of the Americans, inſtead of the Engliſh court. Perhaps the original aſſertion by a foe of this bold ſlander "may be forgiven, though it cannot be applauded:" but its repetition was unfortunate on the lips of a friend. But the friends of America in the war were not all friends of Waſhington. His appearance in uniform in the congreſs of 1775, and the military experience he had acquired, undoubtedly familiarized the minds of ſome members with the idea of his nomination to be commander of the army: but the conſent of many of the delegates to this appointment was only extorted by the neceſſities of the caſe, and was a ſource "of real regret in nearly one-half" of the gentlemen who made

made it. A number of the members were for Mr. Hancock; more were for Charles Lee; many for Washington; but the greateſt number were for Artemas Ward. There is room, however, for the inference that there was no deſire on the part of a majority to maintain at the continental expenſe a New-England army, with New England officers, to fight New England battles on New-England ſoil. There was a ſouthern party againſt a northern; "and ſo many of our ſtauncheſt men," says Adams, "were in the plan, that we could carry nothing without conceding to it. Another embarraſſment, which was never publicly known, and which was carefully concealed by thoſe who knew it, the Maſſachuſetts and other New-England delegates were divided. Mr. Hancock and Mr. Cuſhing hung back; Mr. Paine did not come forward, and even Mr. Samuel Adams was irreſolute. Mr. Hancock, himſelf, had an ambition to be appointed commander-in-chief. * * * * When I came to deſcribe Waſhington for the commander, I never marked a more ſtriking and ſudden change of countenance. Mortification and reſentment were expreſſed as forcibly as his (Hancock's) face could exhibit them." Mr. C. F. Adams adds, that neither Hancock nor Ward was ever afterwards cordial towards Waſhington. Nor were the Virginia delegates unanimous in his favor: "particularly Mr. Pendleton was very clear and full againſt it." When the queſtion was debated, there was a warm oppoſition to Waſhington; on public, however, and not on any perſonal grounds. Pendleton, Sherman, Cuſhing, and ſeveral others joined in it, fearing "diſcontents in the army and in New-England." This army, it muſt be recollected, conſiſted at that time almoſt entirely of the men raiſed by and in New England, and gathered before Boſton. * * * * *

"Long after the peace, John Jay ſaid that in the congreſs of the Revolution there was always, from firſt to laſt, a moſt bitter party againſt Waſhington. What were the various motives of its members, it is impoſſible to ſay, ſince their names even cannot, with fullneſs and accuracy, be now aſcertained. It is but fair, however, to give the benefit of a doubt, and to ſuppoſe that it was an apprehenſion of the effect which ſo much power and popularity might have on his ambition. The future was as yet unſeen; and many men knew not what would be the conſequences of the attainment of independence. "The ſubjugation of my country," ſaid Edward Biddle, whoſe declining health had compelled him to forego the

the influence his talents would have given him as delegate in congrefs from Pennfylvania, "I deprecate as a moft grievous calamity; and yet ficken at the idea of thirteen, unconnected, petty democracies; if we are to be independent, let us, in the name of *God*, at once have an empire, and place *Waſhington* at the head of it." But this idea was not pleafing to our people, whofe experience of the benefit of monarchy was not great, and very few of whom had ever been diſtinguiſhed by any royal favor; or, as an Engliſh verfifier fang:

Poor loſt America, high honours miſſing,
Knows nought of ſmile and nod, and ſweet hand-kiſſing:
Knows nought of golden promiſes of kings;
In ſolitude the lovely rebel ſighs!
But vainly drops the penitential tear —
Deaf as the adder to the woman's cries,
We ſuffer not her wail to wound our ear:
For food, we bid her hopeleſs children prowl,
And with the ſavage of the deſert howl.

But ſuch "fears of the brave and follies of the wife" are incident to human nature; and the jealouſy of Waſhington may have in ſome caſes been connected with honeſt though blind judgments. It was a public bleſſing, thought Adams, that the glorious defence of the Delaware forts, in 1777, was "not immediately due to the commander-in-chief, nor to ſouthern troops. If it had been, idolatry and adulation would have been unbounded; ſo exceſſive as to endanger our liberties, for what I know. Now, we can allow a certain citizen to be wiſe, virtuous and good without thinking him a deity or a faviour." It was in the ſame year that the writer took fire in congrefs at the ſentiments entertained for the general by certain members: "I am diſtreſſed to find ſome of our members diſpoſed to idolize an image which their own hands have molten. I ſpeak of the ſuperſtitious veneration which is paid to General Waſhington. I honour him for his good qualities, but in this houſe, I feel myſelf his ſuperior. In private life, I ſhall always acknowledge him to be mine." The *cabal* againſt Waſhington was never more violent than at this time, and probably debate ran high and warm language was uſed on either ſide: and his enemies, if we may rely on the following anecdote, were more powerful in the council chamber than in the camp. In a *Life of Lord*

Lord Stirling, the father-in-law of William Duer, written by Mr Duer's ſon (and the relationſhip is of ſome importance to the authenticity of the anecdote), occurs this ſingular paſſage: "It is related by Mr. Dunlap in his hiſtory of New York, upon the authority, it is preſumed, of the late General Morgan Lewis, that a day had been appointed by the *Cabal* in Congreſs for one of them to move for a Committee to proceed to the camp at Valley Forge, to arreſt General Waſhington; and that the motion would have ſucceeded had they not unexpectedly loſt the majority which they poſſeſſed when the meaſure was determined on. At that time, there were but two delegates in attendance from New-York, Francis Lewis, the father of the late General Morgan Lewis, and William Duer, the ſon-in-law of Lord Stirling — barely ſufficient to entitle the state to a vote, if both were preſent. But Mr. Duer was confined to his bed by a ſevere and dangerous illneſs. His colleague, Mr. Lewis, had ſent an expreſs for Mr. Gouverneur Morris, one of the abſent members, who however, had not arrived on the morning of the day on which the motion was to have been made. Finding this to be the caſe, Mr. D. inquired of his phyſician, Dr. John Jones, whether it was poſſible for him to be carried to the Court-Houſe where Congreſs ſat. The doctor told him it was poſſible, but it would be at the riſk of his life. 'Do you mean,' ſaid Mr. D., 'that I ſhould expire before reaching the place?' 'No,' replied the doctor, 'but I would not anſwer for your leaving it alive.' 'Very well, ſir,' ſaid Mr. D., 'you have done your duty, and I will do mine. Prepare a litter for me; if you will not, ſomebody elſe will — but I prefer your aid.' The litter was prepared, and the ſick man placed in it, when the arrival of Mr. Morris rendered the further uſe of it unneceſſary, and baffled the intrigue that had induced its preparation." The date of this anecdote was ſuch as to render it extremely improbable that the American army, if it ſubmitted to Waſhington's depoſal, would have ſtruck another blow under another leader for Congreſs. "I remember well, ſays a public writer in 1780, "that ſuch was the ſituation of the army, while they lay at Valley Forge in the winter of the year 1778, deſtitute of cloathing, many times in want of proviſions, and greatly diſcouraged, that a member of Congreſs, who had been on a committee to the camp to new model the troops, with the advice of General Waſhington,

declared to me, that 'ſuch had been the ſtate of things, that nothing but the great virtues of that man had kept the army together.'"

"Much concerning this *Cabal*, and its workings in the Congreſs of 1778, exiſts in Gordon: whence it would ſeem that delegates from Maſſachuſetts and Virginia were deep in the affair. Samuel Adams, he ſays, was concerned in it, and adds: "The army was ſo confident of it, and ſo enraged, that perſons were ſtationed to watch him, as he approached the camp, on his return home. But he is commonly poſſeſſed of good intelligence, and was careful to keep at a ſafe diſtance. Had he fallen into the hands of the officers, when in that paroxiſm of reſentment, they would probably have handled him ſo as to have endangered his life, and tarniſhed their own honour."

There is a curious article in the *Pennſylvania Evening Poſt* July 24th, 1779, which may refer to this anti-Waſhington Party in Congreſs: "a junto who have endeavored to ſubject all things to themſelves, all power, civil, military and marine: Who have endeavored to remove every perſon that would not mingle in their factious views; and to place none in office but their friends, relatives and dependents; againſt whoſe malevolence the unſullied fame of the great American patriot was but a ſlender barrier; whoſe victim was a W * * * * * * * * * — and whoſe idol was a L * *." The ſame journal (July 9th, 1779) mentions the exiſtence in Congreſs of a ſort of Club of certain New-England, New-Jerſey, and Pennſylvania delegates, with two or three from the Southward; the foundation of which had been laid in the firſt Congreſs, when there was cauſe to fear that New-York and one or two other middle colonies were averſe to extreme meaſures. Among the Waſhington party in Congreſs, I ſhould put ſuch names as thoſe of Robert Lewis, and Gouverneur Morris; Jay; Paca; Burke; Drayton; Duane; Duer; Francis Lewis. The queſtion is not ſo clear in regard to Samuel Adams; Mifflin; Witherſpoon; Ruſh; Jefferſon; the Lees, &c.; though any concluſion to be arrived at muſt in ſome meaſure be conjectural. In 1789, Samuel Adams in a manner denied to a friend the truth of Dr. Gordon's ſtatement of his having been concerned in a plot to remove Waſhington. And in 1796, when John Adams was a ſucceſsful candidate for the Preſidency of the United States, he makes an obſervation that would imply a well-eſtabliſhed community

community of action between Samuel Adams and Thomas McKean: "The feelings of friendſhip excite a curioſity to know how McKean will vote. By that I ſhall gueſs how Governor Adams would have voted!" On April 4th, 1778, Patriek Henry wrote to Riehard Henry Lee that he (Lee) was traduced in Virginia by perſons who alleged that he was engaged in a ſcheme to diſcard Waſhington: and in 1780, Dr. William Shippen, jun., wrote thus to him of General Greene: "He is a little ſuſpicious that you are not perfectly ſatisfied with his conduct, becauſe you were ſaid to be inimical to our commander, and, of conſequence, to him, who was ſuppoſed to be one of his flatterers — this falſe idea I have reprobated to General Greene, and aſſured him he would find you his friend and uſeful confidant." And it is ſaid, alſo, that the occaſion of Lee's loſing his popularity at home, and his ſeat in Congreſs in 1777, was chiefly becauſe he had compelled his tenants to pay their rents. His biographer and nameſake, in ſeveral places, flouts the charge made by Judge Johnſon, in the *Life of Greene*, that Richard Henry Lee was Waſhington's enemy. But if Samuel Adams was, ſo was, probably, Lee. It is at all events a gratifying thing to remark that no one, in later days, had the moral courage to confeſs that he was concerned in the buſineſs; indeed its very name of *Conway's Cabal* ſhows that its members were afraid or aſhamed to avow their complicity; for Conway was but a tool of the hour, whom it was eaſy enough for a fellow-ſoldier to ſilence, and whoſe name was affixed to a ſcheme (that he doubtleſs approved of, but which was concocted by longer heads than his own) merely to avert the attention of the world from its real authors. In the army, indeed, the love and veneration for Waſhington was boundleſs, and almoſt univerſal; and, here, truly, lay the ſtumbling-block of his enemies. It was only in the immediate circle of ſome of the foreign-born officers, as Conway, Lee, and Gates, that an oppoſite opinion was heard. Lee's ſentiments in regard to "Waſhington and his puppies" are ſufficiently well known. "*Entre nous*," he says to Gates in December, 1776, "a certain great man is damnably deficient." "As to his talents for the command of an army," ſaid Gates to Graydon, 'with a French ſhrug,' "they were miſerable indeed." The teſtimony of the civilian, who was forced to remove from a comfortable houſe in one place to a comfortable houſe in another,

another, becauſe Waſhington, with vaſtly inferior forces could not drive Howe out of Philadelphia, would be amuſing but for the circumſtance that, himſelf in a poſition to obtain a comfortable dinner — "a good roaſt turkey, plain pudding, and minced pies," — he could ſo grievouſly have miſconceived the condition of the Army in his vicinity. As Mr. William B. Reed juſtly obſerves: "The ſufferings of the Americans during their winter cantonment at the Valley Forge have been often deſcribed. They have never been exaggerated." Yet, in the end of December, 1777, after noting Howe's movements, a Pennſylvania Whig remarks: "All his is done in the view of our Generals and our Army, who are careleſs of us, but carefully conſulting where they ſhall go to ſpend the winter in jollity, gaming, and carouſing. O tell not this in France or Spain! Publiſh it not in the ſtreets of London, Liverpool or Briſtol, leſt the uncircumciſed there ſhould rejoice, and ſhouting for joy, ſay: "America is ours, for the rebels are diſmayed and afraid to fight us any longer! O Americans, where is now your virtue? O Waſhington, where is your courage?" In this note, no citation is made of Tory or Britiſh accuſations againſt Waſhington. One of theſe was, however, againſt his chaſtity; and ſome of the charges went ſo far as to identify the woman and to trace the offspring. This is only recurred to here, becauſe of a like inſinuation being made apparently by Charles Lee, to General Reed, in 1778; but with great propriety the latter repelled as unworthy of credence the ſlanders that charged the commander-in-chief with "great cruelty to his ſlaves in Virginia, and immorality of life, though they acknowledge it is ſo very ſecret that it is difficult to detect it."

In the cloſe of 1779, General Sullivan warned Waſhington that the *Cabal* of 1777 againſt him ſtill exiſted, and waited only for ſufficient ſtrength to attack him openly. He therefore adviſes him to keep on his guard. "Appearances may deceive even an Angel. Could you have believed, four years ago, that thoſe adulators, thoſe perſons ſo tenderly and ſo friendly uſed, as were Gates, Mifflin, Reed and Tudor, would become your ſecret and bitter, though unprovoked enemies. If we view them now, we cannot help lamenting the want of ſincerity in mankind."

But everything ſaid or done during the War, by Whig or Tory, falls far ſhort of the dreadful charges brought againſt Waſhington by his political opponents

opponents and fellow-citizens in 1795, 1796, and 1797. Compared with the language of *Valerius, Pittachus, A Calm obſerver*, &c., former ſcurrility almoſt became praiſe. Every variety of evil, from avarice and fraud to tyranny and murder, was imputed to his hands, with a power of conception and expreſſion that leaves us no room to wonder that he ſhould have diſdained to run the gauntlet of a third preſidential term; that "he prudently retreated," to quote the remark of his ſucceſſor. "Will not the world be led to conclude," ſays one, "that the maſk of political hypocriſy has been alike worn by a Cæſar, a Cromwell, and a Waſhington!" "Had the meridian blaze of the preſident's popularity continued much longer," writes another, "the lamp of American liberty would have been extinguiſhed forever. Happily for humanity, a change has taken place before it was too late, and the conſecrated ermine of preſidential chaſtity ſeems too foul for time itſelf to bleach." In the *Philadelphia Aurora*, a paper edited with deteſtable ability, will be found ſcores of pieces of a like nature. What can be more lamentable than ſuch lines as theſe, publiſhed at the very epoch (March 4th, 1797) of Waſhington's withdrawal to private life? '"Lord, letteſt now thy ſervant depart in peace, for mine eyes have ſeen thy ſalvation,"' was the pious ejaculation of a man who beheld a flood of happineſs ruſhing in upon mankind. If ever there was a time that would licenſe the reiteration of the exclamation, that time is now arrived: for the man who is the ſource of all the misfortunes of our country, is this day reduced to a level with his fellow-citizens, and is no longer poſſeſſed of a power to multiply evil upon the United States. If ever there was a period for rejoicing, this is the moment. Every heart in uniſon with the freedom and happineſs of the people, ought to beat high with exultation that the name of Waſhington from this day ceaſes to give a currency to political iniquity, and to legalize corruption — a new æra is now opening upon us, an æra which promiſes much to the people; for public meaſures muſt now ſtand upon their own merits, and nefarious projects can no longer be ſupported by a name. When a retroſpect is taken of the Waſhingtonian administration for eight years, it is a ſubject of the greateſt aſtoniſhment, that a ſingle individual ſhould have cankered the principles of republicaniſm in an enlightened people, juſt emerged from the gulf of deſpotiſm, and ſhould have carried his deſigns againſt public liberty ſo far,

far, as to have put in jeopardy its very exiſtenee; ſueh, however, are the facts, and with theſe ſtaring us in the faee, this day ought to be a *jubilee* in the United States." In 1813, John Adams, writing to Jefferſon, refers to "the terroriſm excited by Genet, in 1793, when 10,000 people in the ſtreets of Philadelphia, day after day, threatened to drag Waſhington out of his houſe, and effect a revolution in the government, or compel it to declare war in favor of the Freneh revolution and againſt England. The cooleſt and the firmeſt minds, even among the Quakers in Philadelphia, have given their opinions to me, that nothing but the yellow fever, whieh removed Dr. Hutchinſon and Jonathan Dickinſon Sergeant from this world, could have ſaved the United States from a fatal revolution of government." But Adams's morbid jealouſy of every one whoſe fame outſhone or even (in his own opinion) rivalled his own, eankers very many of his judgments on Waſhington. While Preſident himſelf, he complained that he was annoyed by "puppets, danced upon the wires of two jugglers behind the ſcenes; and theſe jugglers were Hamilton and Waſhington." In another and (as believed) unpubliſhed manuſcript, he ſays (Aug. 23rd, 1806): "The Federaliſts, as they are ealled by themſelves and their enemies, have done themſelves and their eountry incaleulable injury by making Waſhington their political, religious, and even moral pope, and aſcribing everything to him. Hancoek, Samuel Adams, ———, and ſeveral others have been mueh more eſſential characters to Americe than Waſhington. Another eharacter, almoſt forgotten, of more importanee than any of them all, was James Otis. It is to offend againſt eternal juſtiee to give to one, as this people do, the merits of ſo many. It is an effectual extinguiſher of all patriotiſm and all publie virtue, and throws the nation entirely into the hands of intrigue. You lament the growth of Corruption very juſtly; but there is none more poiſonous than the eternal puffing and trumpeting of Waſhington and Franklin, and the inceſſant abuſe of the real Fathers of the eountry.

Deſpite all that has been ſaid, too, of Mr. Jefferſon's relations with Waſhington, it is difficult to hold that theſe really could have been of a perfectly ſineere and friendly nature. It was believed in Waſhington's family that, ſhortly before his death, he opened his mind very plainly to Mr. Jefferſon, in two or three letters. A gentleman, who was Waſhington's

ton's confidential clerk at the time, gives us ſome idea of their nature; for neither letters nor copies long continued in existence after their writer was dead. "The firſt was," he ſaid, "rather a letter of inquiry; the ſecond one was ſo ſevere, and excited his feelings ſo much, that the hair appeared to riſe on his head as he recorded it, and he felt that it muſt produce a duel — that the third was of a milder tone, but not a very gratifying one."

It is not, at this day, too much to ſay, that the common ſuffrage of all that is wiſe and good in human nature, authorizes us to queſtion that man's ſoundneſs of judgment or rectitude of purpoſe who impugns the character of *George Waſhington.*"

Page 23. *David Matthews.*

HE was appointed Mayor of the city of New York in February, 1776; "and by permiſſion of the Provincial Congreſs was qualified by Governor Tryon on board the ſhip *Ducheſs of Gordon*, at anchor in the harbor. In July of the ſame year he was in jail at Litchfield, Connecticut, charged with "treaſonable practices againſt the States of America;" but, at his own requeſt, was removed to Hartford, where he had friends, and could ſee his wife. In 1782, he was Regiſter of the Court of Admiralty. He had a houſe in New York and another in Flatbuſh, and kept up an eſtabliſhment at both. His eſtate was confiſcated. After the war he was preſident of the Council and Commander-in-Chief of the Iſland of Cape Breton."—*Sabine's Loyaliſts*, II, 51–2, ed. 1764.

"I well recollect breakfaſting with my mother at the houſe of Mr. Matthews, the Mayor, and that his daughter, who entertained us, was ſo much to my taſte, that for the moment I quite forgot the politics of her father, and might even have ſwerved, perhaps, from my loyalty to an allegiance a thouſand times ſworn elſewhere."—*Graydon's Memoirs*, p. 272, ed. 1846.

He

He appears to have been a man of ſociable qualities; one of his own party ſpeaks of him as " that merry heart, David Matthews."—V. Moore's *Diary of the Revolution*, 1, 290.

At page 237 of Moore's *Songs and Ballads of the American Revolution*, is a ſong from Rivington's *Gazette*, which it is ſuggeſted, may have been written by Matthews.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN NEW YORK TO HIS FRIEND IN HARTFORD, DATED JUNE 27, 1776.

YOU have no doubt heard of a moſt horrid conſpiracy lately diſcovered in this place. I have had no opportunity to examine the evidences in ſupport of the fact; but from the weight of the perſons who have appeared to proſecute the inquiry, and the circumſtances that have been mentioned, I have no doubt of the truth of the general charge. The ſubſtance of it, I take to be this, that Governour *Tryon* in this, and other ſimilar emiſſaries in all the other Governments, have been for a long time uſing all the influence that the command of the Miniſtry and Treaſury in *England* could give them, to bribe and cajole our principal people in all the Colonies to act in concert with their plans; that by degrees they have brought numbers fully to co-operate with them; and, after being led on too far to recede, ſtick at nothing, however villanous and horrible, to accompliſh their deſigns; that the principal emiſſaries have, by purſuing the ſame methods that were ſucceſsfully practiced upon themſelves, drawn in thoſe beneath them, ſo as to take in all degrees, from the prince to the ſcavenger; that a diſtribution of money and arms has been ſecretly made from the greater to the leaſt branches; that there were ſchemes to diſtinguiſh who were in the plot, without ſpeaking; that when all was ready for execution, the moſt vigorous efforts were to be made in different parts at once to land the troops and puſh their operations; at the ſame time all our moſt important poſts were to be ſeized by the conſpirators on ſhore; among ourſelves all our important men were to be ſeized

ſeized or murdered, together with all that were friendly attached to the cauſe of *American* rights and liberty, and might be likely to obſtruct their views or give them trouble. General *Waſhington* was among the firſt that were to be ſacrificed, and the reſt in ſucceſſion, according to their importance. A number of the General's Guard have already been taken up, were bribed to murder him, and have for ſome time received double pay for that purpoſe, one of whom was yeſterday condemned to to be hanged.—Force's *American Archives*, 4th ſeries, vol. vi, page 1101.

PROCEEDINGS IN NEW YORK IN RELATION TO DISAFFECTED PERSONS.

Die Sabbati, 12 ho., June 15, 1776.

In Committee for the hearing and trying diſaffected perſons and thoſe of equivocal characters, met in the Aſſembly-Chamber: Preſent, *Philip Livingſton*, *Joſeph Hallett*, *John Jay*, *Thomas Tredwell*, *Gouverneur Morris*, *Lewis Graham*, and *Leonard Ganſevoort*, Eſquires, members.

The Members preſent unanimouſly choſe *Philip Livingſton*, Esq., Chairman, which he refuſed to accept.

The draft of a Summons was read, and approved of.

Ordered. That one hundred copies be printed.

Liſt of ſuſpected perſons named in the Reſolutions of the Provincial Congreſs, of *June* 5, 1776:

NEW YORK.

Firſt Liſt.

Wm. Newton,	William Bayard,
Linus King,	Frederick Rhinelander,
John Baltres Daſh,	James Coggeſhall,
Henry Law,	John Milliner,
Theo. Hardenbrook,	Benjamin James,
Samuel Burling,	Theopilact Bache,
John Woods,	Peter McLean,
Benjamin Williams,	Samuel Galsworthy,
Chriſtopher Benſon,	Francis De La Roach.

Second Liſt.

Oliver De Lancey,
C. Ward Apthorpe,
William Smith,
John Harris Cruger,
James Jauncey, Jun.,
William Axtell,
Goldbrow Banyar,
George Brewerton,
Charles Nicoll,
Gerard Walton,
Dr. Donald McLean,
Charles McEvers,
Benjamin Huggett,
William McAdam,
John Cruger,
Jacob Walton,
Robert Bayard,
Peter Graham,
Peter Van Schaack,
And. Elliott, Collector,
David Matthews, Mayor,
J. Watts, Jr., Recorder,
Judge Thomas Jones.

On board ſhips-of-war Dutcheſs of Gordon, &c.

William Tryon,
John Wetherhead,
Captain Hervey,
John T. Kempe,
George Berks.

KING'S COUNTY.

Firſt Liſt.

Theophilact Bache,
Benjamin James.

Second Liſt.

Auguſtus Van Cortlandt,
John Rapalye.

RICHMOND COUNTY.

Firſt Liſt.

Iſaac Decker,
Abraham Harris,
Ephraim Taylor,
Minne Burger.

Second Liſt.

Benjamin Seaman,
Chriſtopher Billop.

QUEENS COUNTY.

Firſt Liſt.

R'd Hulet, Rockaway
Thomas Cornel, do,
Stephen Hulet,
Dr. Charles Arder,

J. Beagle, Rockaway,
John Kendal, at Daniel, Thom's, Flushing,
John Moore, Sen., Newtown,
D. Beatty, Hempstead,
John Bodin,
—— Chase, Jamaica,
Jno. Hulet, Oyster Bay,
Isaac Denton, of Near Rockaway.

Second List.

Gabriel Ludlow,
Dr. Samuel Martin,
Thomas Jones,
Archibald Hamilton,
David Colden,
Richard Colden,
George D. Ludlow,
Whitehead Hicks,
Samuel Clowes,
George Folliot,
Samuel Doughty,
Daniel Kissam,
Gilbert Van Wyck,
John Willet,
David Brooks,
Charles Hicks,
John Townsend,
John Polhemus,
Benjamin Whitehead,
Thomas Smith,
John Shoals,
Nathaniel Moore,
Samuel Hallet,
William Weyman,
Captain Thomas Hicks, Rockaway,
B. Lester, Hempstead.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

First List.

Frederick Philipse,
Caleb Morgan,
Nathaniel Underhill,
Samuel Merritt,
Peter Corne,
Dr. Peter Huggeford,
James Horton, Jun.,
William Sutton,
William Barker,
Joshua Purdy,
Absalom Gidney.

Second List.

Solomon Fowler,
Richard Morris, Judge of Admiralty.

The Court-Room in the City-Hall of the City of New-York, the 19th day of June, 1776.

Mr. *Morris* offered to the Committee a draft of a Warrant to be issued against dangerous persons described and named in the Resolutions of the Provincial

Provincial Congreſs of the 5th of *June* inſtant; which, being read and conſidered, was agreed to, and is in the words following, viz:

In purſuance of certain Reſolutions of the Congreſs of the Colony of *New-York* of the 5th day of *June* inſtant, we do authorize and require you forthwith to arreſt and bring before us, at the City-Hall of the City of *New-York*, ..., whoſe conduct hath been repreſented to the ſaid Congreſs as inimical to the cauſe and rights of *America*, and who, if ſummoned, would probably, in the opinion of the ſaid Congreſs, not appear, but ſecrete himſelf; to the end that we, being the Committee of the ſaid Congreſs, for that purpoſe, by the reſolutions aforeſaid, duly appointed and authorized, may inquire and determine in the premiſes. And bring with you then there this warrant.

Given at *New-York*, the.....day of *June*, 1776.

Form of Summons for ſuſpected Perſons.

SIR: By virtue of the authority veſted in us by certain reſolutions of the Congreſs of the Colony of *New-York* of the 5th day of *June*, in the year of our Lord ſeventeen hundred and ſeventy-ſix, reciting that whereas there are in this Colony divers perſons who, by reaſon of their holding offices from the King of *Great Britain* — from their having neglected or refuſed to aſſociate with their fellow-citizens for the defence of their common rights — from their having never manifeſted, by their conduct, a zeal for, and attachment to the *American* cauſe — or from their having maintained an equivocal neutrality, have been conſidered by their countrymen in a ſuſpicious light — whereby it hath become neceſſary, as well for the ſafety as for the ſatisfaction of the people, (who, in times ſo dangerous and critical, are naturally led to conſider thoſe as their enemies who withhold from them their aid and influence,) that certain perſons in the ſaid reſolutions named, (of whom you are one,) who are generally ſuppoſed to come under the above deſcription, ſhould be ſummoned by a certain Committee, to ſhow cauſe, if any they have, why they ſhould be conſidered as friends to the *American* cauſe, and as of the number of thoſe who are ready to riſk their lives and fortunes in defence of the rights and liberties of *America* againſt the uſurpation, unjuſt claims, and cruel oppreſſions of the *Britiſh* Parliament; which rights and liberties, and which unjuſt claims and cruel oppreſſions, are ſpecified and ſtated in

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divers Addreſſes, Petitions, and Remonſtrances of the preſent and late Continental Congreſſes; and directing certain proceedings in the ſaid reſolutions ſpecified to be by the ſaid Committee had againſt ſuch of the ſaid perſons as the ſaid Committee ſhall not adjudge and determine to be friends to the *American* cauſe:

We do, therefore, in purſuance of the ſaid Reſolutions, ſummon you to appear before us at ....., on the....day of..... , at .....o'clock in the ..... noon of the ſaid day, to ſhow cauſe (if any you have) why you ſhould be conſidered as a friend to the *American* cauſe, and of the number of thoſe who are ready to riſk their lives and fortunes in defence of the rights and liberties of *America*, againſt the uſurpation, unjuſt claims, and cruel oppreſſions of the *Britiſh* Parliament; which rights and liberties, and which unjuſt claims and cruel oppreſſions, are, as aforeſaid, ſpecified and ſtated in divers Addreſſes, Petitions and Reſolutions of the preſent and late Continental Congreſſes.

Dated the .... day of ....., 1776.

To the Hon. *John Harris Cruger.*

The Committee adjourned till to morrow morning, at ten o'clock, to meet at the ſame place.

The Court-room in the City-Hall of the City of New-York, the 20th day of June, 1776.

Certain Members of the Committee being obliged to attend to other buſineſs impoſed on them by the Houſe, the Committee did not meet, but ſeveral of the Members agreed to meet to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the ſame place.

The Court-Room in the City-Hall of the City of New-York, the 21ſt day of June, 1776

The Committee met purſuant to the agreement of yeſterday.

Preſent—*John Jay*, Eſq., Chairman, Mr. *Livingſton*, Mr. *Hobart*, Mr. *Ganſevoort*, Mr. *Morris*, Colonel *Graham*.

The Secretary reported that, purſuant to the order of this Committee of the 19th inſtant, he had on that day duly ſworn *Sampſon Dyckman*, the

the Meſſenger of this Committee, faithfully to execute the duties and office of Meſſenger to this Committee.

The Secretary further reported that, purſuant to another order of this Committee of the ſame day, he, forthwith delivered the ſummonſes made out this day, to the meſſenger, to be ſerved; and that he delivered the other ſummonſes to the Meſſenger yeſterday morning, when the ſaid Meſſenger informed him that *William McAdam*, to whom one of the firſt mentioned ſummonſes was directed, was abſent from home, and as the Meſſenger was informed by Mrs. *McAdam*, gone to a diſtant part of *New-Jerſey*, from whence it was uncertain when he would return; and that he delivered the ſaid ſummons to Mrs. *McAdams*.

That the Meſſenger further informed him that he had delivered the ſummons directed to *Oliver De Lancey*, Eſq., to his wife, Mr. *D. L.* being, as ſhe informed him, gone from home; and that he had delivered the ſummons directed to Mr. *Apthorp* and Mr. *Robert Bayard* to themſelves, reſpectively.

That he had not ſerved the ſummons directed to *George Brewerton*, he being (with his family) out of town.

Ordered, That the Secretary make out a number of blank Warrants, in the form directed by this Committee on the 19th day of *June* inſtant.

Ordered, That Mr. *Hubbard* and Colonel *Graham* prepare the draft of a Warrant proper to be iſſued againſt ſuch perſons of equivocal character as may neglect or refuſe to appear on ſummons; and alſo of a ſummons proper to be iſſued to perſons ſuppoſed to be inimical and dangerous to the cauſe of *America*.

The Committee adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow morning, to meet at the ſame place.

Examination of William Leary.

William Leary ſays that he came hither laſt *Monday*, about ten o'clock, in purſuit of *William Benjamin*, a workman of Mr. *Erſkine*, who had run away from *Bigwood* Ironworks. He found the ſaid *Benjamin* at the houſe of one *Forbes*, at the ſign of *Robin Hood*. After taking him, *Forbes* ran and got a piſtol for *Benjamin* to defend himſelf, and examinant took hold of *Benjamin* and prevented him from uſing the ſaid piſtol. Examinant carried the ſaid *Benjamin* to *Paulus Hook* Ferry, who was

 there

there refcued by Sergeant *Cornet*, of Captain *Roofevelt's* company, and by the ſaid captain enliſted. Examinant then met *James Maſon*, one of the workmen of Mr. *Erſkine*, who had ſome time ago been diſcharged. *James Maſon* aſked examinant if he did not want to ſee *James Ramſay*, *Chriſtopher Wiley*, and *George Gammell*. Examinant ſaid yes. *James Maſon* ſaid examinant might ſee them if he would take an oath that he did not come to take them up; which examinant refuſed, ſaying he would, nevertheleſs, be glad to ſee them. *Maſon* aſked examinant if he had run away; who anſwered in the affirmative. *Maſon* then aſked what examinant would do with himſelf, and whether he would do as he and the reſt of them had done. Examinant aſked what that was. *Maſon* ſaid he muſt go and be qualified, and then he would tell him. Examinant agreed to be qualified; but aſked on what foundation? *Maſon* told him he was to ſwear before a gentleman in this town to go on board of the man-of-war; that he (*Maſon*) and his companions had ſo ſworn, and were to receive wages and proviſions until they ſhould be able to get there. Examinant aſked who the gentleman was that ſwore them. *Maſon* replied it was a gentleman employed by the Mayor or Governour of the town; but the examinant thinks it was the Mayor who ſwore them and found proviſions for them until they had an opportunity to get on board the man-of-war. *Maſon* then conducted examinant to the houſe where *George Gammel*, *James Ramſay*, and *Chriſtopher Wyley* lived. This houſe is a *Scotchman's*, juſt below the *Jews'* Synagogue, a private houſe; does not know the man's name. When examinant came in, *George Gammel* aſked him if he was in purſuit of them; who anſwered in the negative. *George Gammel* then ſaid, Did you come away in the ſame manner as we did? Examinant ſaid yes. *Gammel* then ſaid, we will have a drink together. *Gammel* ſaid he would divulge his mind to examinant if examinant would be true to him. Examinant anſwered, "I will be as true to you as you are to me." *Gammel* then took examinant aſide, and aſked when he would go on board of the man-of-war. Examinant ſaid he did not know, but would take the firſt good opportunity. Aſked examinant if he wanted a paſs. Examinant ſaid he had a paſs ſufficient for him to go as far as he wanted. *Gammel* brought to examinant a perſon to give him a paſs, whom examinant does not know, but believes he ſhould know him again if he were to ſee him. Examinant

ſaid

ſaid he wanted to ſee the *New England* encampment, to ſee one *Amos Hutchins*, a Captain; intending to decoy them thither, and have them apprehended. When examinant had got about half way up the *Broadway*, they diſcovered his piſtols, and would have fled, thinking, as examinant ſuppoſes, that he meant to take them up. *James Ramſay* and *Chriſtopher Wyley* ran off. Examinant purſued and caught *James Ramſay*. They then gathered together, and aſked examinant why he carried piſtols; who replied that they were for his defenſe, until with them he could get on board of the man-of-war. They being then ſuſpicious, turned back; but examinant firſt aſked *George Gammel* when he intended to go on board of the man-of-war, and how. *Gammel* anſwered 'I intend to leave town this night, and go to *Long Iſland*, and get from thence to the man-of-war;' but whether to get a perſon to put him on board, or to ſteal a boat or canoe, this examinant is not certain. *Gammel* then ſaid the gentleman who was employed by the Mayor had deſired them not to be ſeen more than two together. The gentleman had further told him the Riflemen were ſo thick on *Long-Iſland* as to prevent him from getting on board until a more convenient opportunity; and perhaps they might not get on board until General *Howe* arrived with his fleet. They expected a large body of men to join them from *Goſhen*, and they were to get on board with the utmoſt deſpatch after General *Howe's* arrival.

WILLIAM LEARY.

Examined by, and ſworn the 20th of *June*, 1776, before us.

JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

Examination of JAMES MASON.

James Maſon ſays: About two weeks and a half ago a man took his qualification that he would not divulge anything about the buſineſs he was then upon. When he went up to *Goſhen* from *Kingſwood*, about five weeks ago, to look for a place as a miller, he ſaw a man who had been four days on board the man-of-war, by name *William Forbes*, a tanner and currier by trade; that as you go up the *Broadway* you come to the ſtreet in which is the *Oſwego* market, oppoſite to the ſouth ſide of which, four doors from the corner of the *Broadway*, lives one *Lourie*, a tavern-keeper, a fat man, who wears a blue coat, and that he hath frequently met

met the ſaid *William Forbes* in that houſe; that he told examinant he never lodged twice in the ſame houſe, being afraid; examinant aſked where he did lodge, *Forbes* would not tell him; that *Forbes* hath a houſe of his own, five miles from *Goſhen*, at which he ſaw him when examinant was looking for a place. *Forbes* told examinant he had been four days on board the man-of-war laſt *April*, when the ſhip *Savage* fired on *Staten-Iſland*; that Governour *Tryon* would give five guineas bounty and two hundred acres of land for each man, one hundred for his wife, and fifty for each child, upon condition they would enliſt in his Majeſty's ſervice. Examinant bore *Forbes's* expenſes to town, *Forbes* undertaking to repay him in hard caſh when they got on board; that *Forbes* was to have a bounty from the Governour for every man he could get, and had been ſent home for that purpoſe; that the Governour had deſired him to go up and get as many men as he could; that the recruits were to aſſiſt the King's troops when they came; that recruits were not to go on board, becauſe they could do more good on ſhore, and beſides they were on ſhort allowance in the ſhip and crowded, as *Forbes* told examinant. *Forbes* and examinant came to *New-York* by way of *Elizabethtown*, and in their way, at *Warwick*, *Forbes* entered *William Benjamin* to go along with him, and at *Elizabethtown Forbes* inquired at Deacon *Ogden's*, where he uſed to work, and told examinant, after the inquiry, that they could not get on board from *Bergen-Point* or *Staten-Iſland*, as there were Riflemen ſtationed there, but muſt go to *New-York*, for that there was a man there, one *McLean*, a ſhoemaker, near the *Royal Exchange*, who was employed by the Governour to carry recruits on board; that *Forbes* and examinant came to *New-York* in an *Elizabethtown* boat, and went firſt to *Thomas Maſon's* at the corner of *Beaver* ſtreet and *Broadway*, at the ſign of the Highlander, where they left their baggage, and *William Benjamin* to take care of it, and went thence to *McLean's*, to inquire for a paſſage; that *McLean* and *Forbes* whiſpered together, and then *Forbes* told examinant that *McLean* ſaid there was no opportunity of getting on board in two or three nights; that *McLean* recommended them to one *James Houlding*, a tavern-keeper in *Tryon* Row oppoſite the gate of the upper barracks, for lodging; that they went up to *Houlding's*, leaving *Benjamin* ſtill at *Maſon's*, and, after duſk, examinant went for *Benjamin*, and he and *Benjamin* carried the baggage up, and all three lodged at *Houlding's*

Houlding's that night, telling *Houlding* Mr. *McLean* had ſent and recommended them there as a ſafe houſe; next morning *Forbes* went to ſee for an opportunity to get on board, and did the like for two or three days; *Forbes* and *Benjamin* ſtaid at *Houlding's* one week without being able to get on board of the man-of-war; *William Benjamin* agreed to go on board the man-of-war alſo, and accept the Governour's bounty; after the firſt week, as they could not get on board, *Houlding* obſerved that they ought to be ſpread about, for that keeping them together would occaſion ſuſpicion in his houſe; that one *Corbie*, who lives near General *Waſhington's*, uſed to reſort to the houſe of *Houlding*, where he was introduced to *Forbes*, and this examinant alſo got acquainted with *Corbie*; that many Tories reſorted to *Houlding's*, amongſt whom were two brothers, of the name of *Fortune*, the one a tanner, living in the *Swamp*, and the other a ſaddler, whom he hath ſeen working at *Cook's*, in the *Broadway;* alſo, one *Fueter* a ſilverſmith, who was ridden about town for a Tory, and another of the ſame name, whom he takes to be his brother; alſo, a man without an arm, whom he believes to be an old penſioner, and *Gilbert Foſter*, a gunſmith, living oppoſite to Mr. *Hull's* tavern, a ſhort, thick man who wears a white coat; that theſe perſons, as he believes, knew of the examinant's intention, but did not care to truſt him, as he had not taken his qualification; that examinant was qualified before the ſaid *Gilbert Forbes*, and the ſaid *William Forbes*, at the houſe of the ſaid *Corbie*; that *William Forbes* gave him the book, and that they made him ſwear not to divulge anything of what the examinant now tells; that when examinant was at *Houlding's*, *Gilbert Forbes*, *William Forbes*, and *Corbie*, adviſed examinant to go to *Corbie's* houſe and work a little in the garden to prevent ſuſpicion. *Gilbert Forbes* promiſed examinant ten ſhillings per week ſubſiſtence money, of which this examinant hath, at different times, received twenty ſix ſhillings and eight pence; that the examinant complained ten ſhillings was too little; *Forbes* said he could not help it, but he would write to the Governour to try to get it increaſed to twelve; that he afterwards told examinant he could not get an anſwer, becauſe a boat coming from the Governour was near being taken, and had thrown the letters overboard; that *William Benjamin* and *William Forbes* have also received money from the ſaid *Gilbert*; that, according to the advice of the *Forbſes* and *Corbie*, went to *Corbie's*, and continued there until

laſt

laſt *Saturday;* that whlle examinant lived at *Houlding's*, Corbie eame there between nine and ten o'clock at night, and brought with him a mulatto-colored negro, dreſſed in blue clothes, about five feet eight inches high, well-set, but knows not his name or to whom he belongs, but is informed that he hath ſinee been taken up and put in jail; when *Corbie* and the negro came in there was a great deal of whiſpering round between *Corbie*, *William Forbes*, the negro, and another man who had been waiting to get on board and did go on board that evening; that afterwards the examinant and *William Forbes* had ſome converſation about the negro; *Forbes* told him the negro was going on board the man-of-war with that man, and two or three more, but the craft was ſo ſmall it would not carry them all for fear of diſcovery, wherefore he, *Benjamin*, and *William Forbes*, were obliged to ſtay behind; that when this examinant was qualified, there was preſent one *Clarke*, who had been a ſchoolmaſter about eight or nine miles from *Goſhen*, and with whom the ſaid *William Forbes* was acquainted; that the ſaid *Clarke* ſaid in the examinant's hearing that he had enliſted about ſixty men, of whom he had a liſt, and who were ready to aſſiſt when the troops eame; that examinant believes the liſt was given to *Gilbert Forbes* to be ſent to the Governour, for that the name of the examinant, *William Forbes* and *William Benjamin*, were taken down by the ſaid Gilbert, as this examinant ſuppoſes, to be ſent to the Governour; that one *Hickey*, of the General's Guards, he believes to be coneerned, who is now in confinement; that one *Greene*, of the General's Guards, a drummer, is concerned, for that examinant ſaw *Gilbert Forbes* in converſation with ſaid *Greene*, but could not hear them, and ſinee that time *Greene* hath adminiſtered an oath to this Hickey, and ſome other ſoldiers of the General's Guards, and, as examinant is informed, is to have one dollar per man from *Forbes*, for every man he ſhall inliſt; one *Barnes*, of the General's Guards, one *Johnſon*, a fifer of the Guards, who, as well as Greene and Hickey, have been in the regular ſervice, are qualified for the ſame purpoſe; that *William Benjamin* told examinant he heard *Gilbert Forbes* ſay that he would go to the Mayor and get one hundred pounds which he muſt have; that examinant and *William Forbes*, in their way from *William Forbes's* houſe, came to a fine houſe; that examinant aſked what fine houſe that was; that *Forbes* said it belonged to the brother of the Mayor of New-York; that he knew

him

him very well, and had been there ſeveral times and muſt go there now to tell him what he was going about, to know if he had any word to ſend to his brother, and that the examinant muſt walk on ſlowly and he would overtake him; that, at the door of the houſe examinant ſaw an old, ſhort, thick, fat man; that *Forbes* ſtayed there about a quarter of an hour, and then followed and overtook the examinant, who aſked *Forbes* if the Mayor's brother had given him any letter; *Forbes* ſaid no, he had only deſired him to tell his brother that he was well; that the Mayor's brother aſked who the examinant was, and *Forbes* told him it was a young man going upon the ſame errand that he was. Examinant believes *Gilbert Forbes* is at the head here, and the Mayor and the Governour.

JAMES MASON.

Examined the 20th *June*, 1776, by us:

JOHN JAY,
GOVERNEUR MORRIS.

Liſt of perſons charged as enemies to AMERICA.

William Forbes, by trade a tanner and currier, formerly an inhabitant of *Orange County*.

Lourie, a tavern-keeper, (no ſign,) four doors from the corner of *Broadway*, oppoſite the ſouth ſide of *Oſwego* market, in one of the low houſes; a fat man, with a blue coat.

William Benjamin, an apprentice of Mr. *Erſkine*, now a ſoldier in Captain *Rooſevelt's* Company. Inquire of *William Leary*.

McLean, a ſhoemaker, near the *Royal Exchange*.

Thomas Maſon, a tavern-keeper, at the ſign of the Highlander, at the corner of *Beaver* ſtreet and *Broadway*.

James Houlding, a tavern-keeper, in *Tryon Row*, oppoſite the gate of the upper barracks, (no ſign,) his name written over the door; a beer houſe.

Corbie, a tavern-keeper, to the ſoutheaſt of General *Waſhington's* houſe, to the weſtward of *Bayard's* woods, and north of *Liſpenard's* meadow.

Fortune, a tanner, living in the *Swamp*.

One *Fortune*.

Fortune, a ſaddler, who works at *Cook's*, in *Broadway*.

Fueter, a ſilverſmith, who was ridden upon a rail lately.

Fueter,

Fueter, a brother of the other.

Gilbert Forbes, a gunſmith, oppoſite to *Hull's* tavern; a ſhort thick man, with a white coat.

Clarke, formerly a ſchoolmaſter about nine miles from *Goſhen*.

James Ramſay, *Chriſtopher Wyley*, *George Gammell*, three of Mr. *Erſkine's* workmen. Inquire of *William Leary*.

John Taylor, formerly a conſtable in this town.

Forbes, a tavern-keeper, at the ſign of *Robin Hood*.

McGinnes, a penſioner, with one arm.

Information reſpecting Dr. ARDEN *and others at* JAMAICA.

Doctor *Charles Arden*, was the perſon who inſtigated the Tories to ſign againſt having a Congreſs or a Committee.

Benjamin Smith, (ſon of *Samuel Smith*, *Esq.*)

Robert Hinchman.

Thomas Smith, (ſon of *Thomas Smith*,) whom he threatened to hang if he would not ſign a paper.

Iſaac Leffertſe. Bought the Widow *Bell's* farm. *He* wrote the affidavit of *Roeloff Duryee* about Parſon *Kettletas*, and carried Juſtice *French* to *Duryee's* for that purpoſe.

Captain *Benjamin Whitehead*, late Surveyor. Repeatedly refuſed to communicate to the town of *Jamaica* certain letters from the General Committee of *New-York*, requeſting the town to be called together to elect members of a Committee or Congreſs. Witneſs: *Waters Smith*, or either of the other perſons above named or Captain *Jacob Wright*.

Alexander Wallace. Reſides at *Jamaica*, in *Wat Smith's* houſe.

—— *Bethune*. He maintains an intimacy with *Benjamin Whitehead* and with Dr. *Arden*.

—— *Martin*, from Antigua. Dwells in *Oba-Mills's* houſe, oppoſite the Meeting-Houſe, at a high rent. He aſſociates chiefly with *James Depeyſter*.

Charles McEvers. Reſides in *John Troop's* houſe.

Thomas Cologan and *Flemming Cologan* frequently go to *Creed's Hill* to look out; the two *Dunbar's*, *John William Livingſton*, *Jun.*, and one of the *Cologan's*, were there lately, looking out for a fleet. That the *Dunbar's* ſhut themſelves up, and refuſed to train or pay their fines.

John

John and *William Dunbar.*

George Folliot. Lives with *Jacques Johnſon*, at *Freſh meadows*, about one-and-a-half mile from *Jamaica.*

Theophilact Bache, of *Flatbuſh*, Comes to *Jamaica* to *Alexander Wallace's.*

James Depeyſter. Lives next to *William Belt's.* His ſon, *Joſeph Depeyſter*, has been purſued ſeveral times, but cannot be taken. He is ſaid to be a dangerous Tory.

June 21, 1776.

To His Excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, *Eſq., General;*

SIR: Whereas *David Matthews*, Eſquire, ſtands charged with dangerous deſigns and treaſonable conſpiracies againſt the rights and liberties of the United Colonies of *America:* We do, in purſuance of a certain reſolve of the Congreſs of the Colony of the 20th of *June* inſtant, authorize and requeſt you to cauſe the ſaid *David Matthews* to be, with all his papers, forthwith apprehended and ſecured, and that return be made to us of the manner in which the warrant ſhall be executed, in order that the ſame may be made known to the ſaid Congreſs.

Given under our hands, this 21ſt day of *June*, 1776.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

General *Greene* is deſired to have the within warrant executed with preciſion, and exactly by one o'clock the enſuing morning, by a careful officer.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Friday afternoon, June 21, 1776.

Long-Iſland, June 22, 1776.

In obedience to the within order and warrant, I ſent a detachment of my brigade, under the command of Colonel *Vernon*, to the houſe of the

 within

within-named *David Matthews*, Eſq., at *Flatbuſh*, who ſurrounded his houſe and ſeized his perſon preciſely at the hour of one this morning. After having made him a priſoner, diligent ſearch was made after his papers, but none could be found, notwithſtanding great care was taken that none of the family ſhould have the leaſt opportunity to remove or deſtroy them.

NATHANIEL GREEN.

Flatlands, Friday, June 21, 1776.

Mrs. BREWERTON preſents her compliments to Captain *Thomas Randall*, and begs to acquaint him that when ſhe returned from the city to her family at *Flatlands*, ſhe found a ſummons left at the houſe by a perſon from the Congreſs for Mr. *Brewerton* to attend on them at 10 o'clock this day. She begs it as a favour of Captain *Randall* to acquaint the gentlemen of the Congreſs that it has not been in her power to make Mr. *Brewerton* acquainted with it, as he went out yeſterday morning fiſhing and does not expect to return till this evening or to morrow. On his return ſhe will acquaint him with the ſummons, and makes no doubt but he will immediately attend the Congreſs.

To Captain *Thomas Randall*.

Scott's Tavern, in Wall ſtreet, June 22, 1776.

The committee met purſuant to adjournment. Preſent: Mr. *Hobart*, Mr. *Tredwell*, Colonel *Graham*, Mr. *Randall*, Mr. *Ganſevoort*.

The Committee unanimouſly choſe Mr. *Hobart* Chairman *pro tempore*.

Whitehead Hicks, Eſq., attending on a ſummons returnable this day, was called in. The Chairman read to him part of the Reſolutions of the Congreſs of this Colony relative to perſons of equivocal character, and deſired him to ſhow cauſe to this Committee why he ſhould be conſidered as a friend to the cauſe and rights of *America*.

Mr. *Hicks* ſays the cauſe he can ſhow is only negative; that he defies envy itſelf to ſhow anything in his conduct that is againſt his country; that he has for many years held honourable and lucrative Crown offices, unſolicited, and repeatedly ſworn allegiance to the Crown; that in this ſituation, were his nerves ſtronger, he would not willingly perſonally take

up

up arms on the part of the country; that his father and brothers are ſtrongly attached to, and engaged in, the *American* cauſe; that he therefore, as well as from principle, will never be induced to take up arms againſt his country; that ſome of his near relations are in the Continental Army; that he never adviſed or diſſuaded any perſon, not even his ſervants or domeſticks, in theſe meaſures; that his ſervant has been engaged in this country's ſervice from the firſt of theſe troubles, and is now actually ſerving in the troops raiſed in this Colony, without the leaſt contradiction or diſſuaſion on his part.

Mr. *Hicks* was then aſked by the Chairman whether, in his opinion, the *Britiſh* Parliament has a right to tax *America?* He replied that he would be very unwilling to be taxed by the *Britiſh* Parliament.

The Chairman then aſked him whether he was willing to ſubſcribe the Aſſociation made by the Provincial Congreſs on the 20th inſtant; to which he replied that he could not ſign it becauſe he could not take up arms, and that, as an honeſt man, he could not ſign anything which he did not mean to perform.

Mr. *Hicks* was then aſked by the Chairman whether he thought the preſent meaſures of the Colonies in defending by arms juſtifiable. To this he replied that arms were the laſt reſort, and juſtifiable where neceſſary as the laſt reſort; but that he has not fully examined or conſidered whether every other neceſſary expedient had been previouſly uſed.

Mr. *Hicks* withdrew.

Reſolved, unanimouſly, That *Whitehead Hicks*, Eſq., is not ſuch a friend to the cauſe and rights of *America* as is mentioned in the Reſolutions of the Congreſs of the 5th day of *June* inſtant.

Reſolved unanimouſly, That it is not neceſſary to remove Mr. *Hicks* from his preſent place of reſidence.

Reſolved unanimouſly, That Mr. *Hick's* Parole be taken that he will not oppoſe or contravene the meaſures of the Continental Congreſs or the Congreſs of this Colony, and that his Parole is ſufficient ſecurity.

Mr. *Hicks* was called in and informed of the determinations of the Committee, and a copy of the Parole delivered to him.

Mr. *Hicks* read the copy of the Parole, and declared that he would wiſh to conſider whether this Parole might in any manner interfere with his oath and office of a Judge, but had not any other objection to it.

The

The Committee informed Mr. *Hicks* that he might take time to con ſider of it.

Mr. *Hicks* requeſted, and the Committee conſented, that Mr. *Hicks* conſider thereof until *Monday* next, then to return the ſaid Parole ſigned or to call on this Committee.

An order of the Congreſs of this Colony of the 21ſt inſtant, relative to *Samuel Whitten*, referring his caſe to this Committee, was read, and is in the words following, to wit:

A letter from *Robert H. Harriſon*, General *Waſhington's* Secretary, enclofing a letter from General *Hand*, relative to a ſuſpected dangerous man named *Samuel Whitten*, was received and read.

Ordered, That the ſaid Letter be referred to the Secret Committee.

The Letter from Colonel *Hand*, exhibiting the charges againſt the ſaid *Samuel Whitten*, was alſo read, and taken into conſideration.

The ſaid *Samuel Whitten* was called in. He ſays he croſſed the ferry in a boat with ſome officers on *Thurſday* laſt; that he was ſome thing in liquor, and ſpoke ſome thing too free. He then related the converſation with the officers during his paſſage acroſs the ferry. He further ſays that he has been drafted for in Captain *Buchanan's* Company, in which company he is a Sergeant; that he voluntarily offered to take a chance of being drafted; that had he not been in the ſtate he was he would not have ſaid what he did at that time. *Whitten* further ſays that he thinks the *Americans* are right in their reſiſtance by arms, and that he is willing to take up arms and defend the country; that he only mentioned it as his opinion that the troops would land at *Long Iſland;* that he never had any information of that kind.

The ſaid *Samuel Whitten* ſubſcribed the Aſſociation made by the Congreſs of this Colony on the 26th inſtant.

Thereupon, *Reſolved*, That *Samuel Whitten* be diſcharged, and permitted to go at large.

Mr *Samuel Martin*, attending purſuant to a ſummons from this Committee returnable this day, was called in. He ſays he attends in purſuance of a ſummons received laſt week.

The Chairman read to him the Reſolutions of the Congreſs of this Colony of 20th inſtant, relative to perſons of equivocal character, and

deſired him to ſhow cauſe, if any he had, why he ſhould be conſidered as a friend to the *American* cauſe.

Mr. *Martin* ſays he has never done anything againſt the country, and is not an enemy to the country; that he always meant to remain as peaceable and inactive as he could.

The Chairman aſked Mr. *Martin* if he choſe to be conſidered as a friend to the *American* cauſe, and as one of thoſe who are willing to riſk their lives and fortunes in defence of *America*. Mr. *Martin* declared he ſhould be ſorry to be conſidered as an enemy to the country, and never meant to liſt an arm againſt *America*.

The Chairman informed him that he now had an opportunity to diſtinguiſh himſelf as the friend of *America*.

He replied that he was ready to give any aſſurances that he would not take any active part againſt *America;* that he never meant to take up arms.

Mr. *Martin* being aſked whether, in his opinion, the *Britiſh* Parliament has a right to tax *America*, he replied that, in his opinion, the Parliament has not a right to lay internal taxes on the Colonies. Being aſked whether he did not think a tax on perſonal eſtates was equally unconſtitutional, he replied that he did not, if it was for the regulation of trade; but that he is not a politician, and has confined his ſtudies to his own profeſſion.

Mr. *Martin* when aſked whether he would give ſecurity that he would not oppoſe or contravene the meaſures of the Continental Congreſs or of the Congreſs of this Colony. He replied that he would, but that he did not know of any perſon in this city to apply to to be his ſecurity, that he would apply to his father, who reſides on *Long-Iſland*, who would be his ſecurity.

Mr. *Martin* withdrew.

Reſolved, unanimouſly, that *Samuel Martin* is not a friend to the *American* cauſe.

The Chairman then put the queſtion, whether it is neceſſary to remove Samuel Martin from his preſent place of reſidence?

The Committee unanimouſly agreed that they have not ſufficient information to determine that queſtion at preſent, and therefore agreed to defer the further conſideration thereof till to-morrow morning.

Mr.

Mr. *Martin* was called in and informed thereof and desired to attend at the City Hall to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock.

Robert Fenton, of the City of *New-York*, Brass-founder, being sworn, saith: That five or six weeks ago, at his own house, one *Jacob Losee*, master of a periagua of *John Rapalye*, asked him if there was any such thing as getting rifles in town. Deponent answered that he did not believe there was one. *Losee* said he believed there were many, for that he had been applied to to carry a considerable number of them on board the *Asia*. Deponent asked him by whom. He replied that he would not tell, but that he had refused to take them. That deponent has heard since that the said rifles were afterwards carried on board, but did not understand by whom.

ROBERT FENTON.

Sworn the 22d *June*, before us:

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY.

Thomas Fletcher, a Private in Captain *Newel's* Company of artillery, being sworn saith: That this deponent was lately a private in Colonel *Huntingdon's* Regiment, in Captain *Truebridge's* Company; that about a month ago one *John Campbell*, a shoemaker, living next door to the sign of the Buck, opposite to the western side of the *Fly* market, employed him to work as a journeyman with him at such times as he was not on duty; that after deponent had worked with him a while, he was pleased with deponent's work and endeavored to persuade him to inlist, saying, 'Damn the Congress; who gave them liberty to raise soldiers? Come with me, I will conceal you, or send you off, as I have done with two or three others;' that deponent consented, and was concealed by him for two weeks and a half, and finding that he could not clear his conscience in what he had done, he sent for his comrade and delivered himself up, and hath ever since done his duty as a soldier; he has frequently heard the said *Campbell* in conversation curse the Congress — say he wished the whole town were all Tories, and that the Mayor was as big a one as any in it. And further this deponent saith not.

THOMAS FLETCHER.

Sworn the 22d *June*, 1776, before us:

JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNOUR MORRIS.

Daniel

Daniel Gray, of *Stamford*, in *Connecticut*, being ſworn, ſaith: That *Nathaniel Williams*, of *Huntingdon*, told him the day before yeſterday that a gentleman had reported there that as he was by a fence by the road, *Hugh Wallace*, *Theophilact Bache*, *Charles McEvers*, and three others, whoſe names this deponent hath forgotten, paſſed by and he overheard them ſaying that the enemy were to land at *Rapalye's* mills, take poſſeſſion of the forts on *Long-Iſland*, and thence play on the town, and that they were to be joined by the forces on Long-Iſland. And further ſaith not.

DANIEL GRAY.

Sworn the 22d day of *June*, 1776:

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

Hugh Stevenſon, being duly ſworn on the Holy Evangeliſt of *Almighty God*, depoſeth and ſaith: That on the 18th of this inſtant *June* he bought fifteen pounds of powder of Mr. *Nicholas Conery*, at the ſign of the Red Lion, between *Bateman's* and *Burling's* ſlip, in *New-York*, and that ſome time paſt he (this deponent) bought ten pounds of the ſaid *Conery*, and that he ſuppoſed it came from on board the *Aſia*. And further this deponent ſaith not.

Sworn before me this 22d day of *June*, 1776.

ABEL BELKNAP.
Chair'n Com. Inſp'n for Precinct of Newburgh.

Corneluis Platt, being ſworn, depoſeth and ſaith: That he came from *New-York* with Mr. *Hugh Stevenſon* in his boat laſt *Wedneſday*; that on his paſſage Mr. *Stevenſon* told him he had ſome thing on board, that if it was found out it would be as much as his neck and his whole ſloop were worth. This deponent aſked Mr. *Stevenſon* what it was, Stevenſon anſwered it was fifteen pounds of powder; who was aſked if it was our country powder. He ſaid not; it came from the *Aſia* man-of-war. He further aſked him what he expected to do with it. His anſwer was, that he expected to ſell it at one dollar per pound; that fifteen pounds of powder, would fetch him fifteen dollars. The deponent further ſaith that he and Mr. *Stevenſon* had ſome diſcourſe about the times, when Mr. *Stevenſon*

Stevenſon told him that he expected that all theſe officers would ſoon be ſwung up, and the deponent took it that he meant all theſe Continental officers. At the laſt of the time this deponent aſked *Stevenſon*, whether he intended to ſell his powder to the Tories. He told him he did not. And further this deponent ſaith not.

Sworn before me this 22d day of *June*, 1776.

ABEL BELKNAP.

Chair'n Com. Inſp'n for Precinct of Newburgh.

To Captain ABEEL:

SIR: Whereas *Peter McLean* of the City of *New-York*, Shoemaker, ſtands charged with dangerous deſigns and treaſonable conſpiracies againſt the rights and liberties of the United Colonies of *America:* We do, in purſuance of a certain reſolve of the Congreſs of this Colony of the 20th of *June* inſtant, authorize and requeſt you to cauſe the ſaid *Peter McLean* to be, with all his papers, forthwith apprehended and ſecured, and that return be made to us of the manner in which this warrant ſhall be executed, in order that the ſame may be made known to the ſaid Congreſs.

Given under our hands this 22d day of *June*, 1776.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

To WILLIAM ALLISON, *Eſquire, and Colonel* CLINTON, *or either of them.*

GENTLEMEN: Whereas *James Matthews* ſtands charged with dangerous deſigns and treaſonable conſpiracies againſt the rights and liberties of the United Colonies of *America*: We do, in purſuance of a certain reſolve of the Congreſs of this Colony of the 20th of *June* inſtant, authorize and requeſt you to cauſe the ſaid *James Matthews* to be, with all his papers, forthwith apprehended and ſecured, and that return be made to us of the manner in which this warrant ſhall be executed, in order that the ſame may be made known to the ſaid Congreſs.

Given under our hands this 22d day of *June*, 1776.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
JOHN JAY.

The

The within named *James Matthews*, taken at his place of abode in *Cornwall* Precinct, *Orange* County, purſuant to the within warrant, and delivered to the Committee, but no papers containing information relative to the conſpiracy.

Per me, WILLIAM ALLISON.

New-York, June 25, 1776.

To WILLIAM ALLISON *and Colonel* CLINTON, *or either of them.*

GENTLEMEN: Whereas *William Forbes* and —— *Clarke* ſtand charged with dangerous deſigns and treaſonable conſpiracies againſt the rights and liberties of the United Colonies of *America:* We do, in purſuance of a certain reſolve of the Congreſs of this Colony of the 20th of *June* inſtant, authorize and requeſt you to cauſe the ſaid *William Forbes* and —— *Clarke* to be, with all their papers, forthwith apprehended and ſecured, and that return be made to us of the mannner in which this warrant ſhall be executed, in order that the ſame may be made known to the ſaid Congreſs.

Given under our hands this 22d day of *June*, 1776.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
JOHN JAY.

In purſuance of the within warrant, went in ſearch of the within named *William Forbes* and —— *Clarke* to the upper end of *Orange* County, their uſual place of abode, but found they were gone off; but on returning to *New-York*, found them in cuſtody of the guards.

WILLIAM ALLISON.

New-York, June 25, 1776.

To Captain ABEEL:

SIR: Whereas, *John Campbell* ſtands charged with dangerous deſigns and treaſonable conſpiracies againſt the rights and liberties of the United Colonies of *America:* We do in purſuance of a certain reſolve of the Congreſs of this Colony of the 20th of *June* inſtant, authorize and requeſt you to cauſe the ſaid *John Campbell* to be, with all his papers,

forthwith apprehended and ſecured, and that return be made to us of the manner in which this warrant ſhall be executed, in order that the ſame be made known to the ſaid Congreſs.

Given under our hands this 22d day of *June*, 1776.

JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
PHILIP LIVINGSTON.

To General GREENE, *Naſſau Iſland:*

SIR: Whereas *George Brewerton*, Eſq., ſtands charged with dangerous deſigns and treaſonable conſpiracies againſt the rights and liberties of the United Colonies of *America:* We do, in purſuance of a certain reſolve of the Congreſs of this Colony of the 20th of *June* inſtant, authorize and requeſt you to cauſe the ſaid *George Brewerton* to be, with all his papers, forthwith apprehended and ſecured, and that return be made to us of the manner in which this warrant ſhall be executed, in order that the ſame may be made known to the ſaid Congreſs.

Given under our hands this 22d day of *June*, 1776.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
JOHN JAY.

Camp Long-Iſland, June 22, 1776.

Captain JEREMIAH ALNEY:

You will take ſuch a party out of the brigade as will be neceſſary to carry the within order of Congreſs into execution, and ſerve *Brewerton* with this warrant, ſeize his perſon, and ſecure his papers, agreeable to the within warrant, as ſoon as may be, and bring him and them to me, and report your doings herein.

NATHANIEL GREENE.

June 25th.—Captain *Alney* has made two attempts, agreeable to the report accompanying this, to take Alderman *Brewerton* priſoner, but was not ſucceſsful. This day he came and delivered himſelf up. Have ſent him under the care of Captain *Brown.*

NATHANIEL GREENE.

June

June 23, 1776.

Sampſon Dyckman now preſent, returns, that he left the ſummons directed to *James Jauncey*, Jun., Eſq., on *Thurſday* laſt, with the maſter of the houſe where Mr. *Jauncey* lodges, who then informed him that Mr. *Jauncey* was gone abroad with his wife, and had been abſent ſome days, but was expected to return on that or the next day.

That he delivered the ſummonſes directed to *William Axtell, David Matthews, Charles McEvers, and Whitehead Hicks*, Eſquires, to themſelves reſpectively, *Thurſday* laſt, and on the ſame day left the ſummons directed to *George Brewerton*, Eſq., at his lodgings at *Flatlands*, with a woman there, ſaid to be his houſekeeper.

That on *Friday* laſt he delivered the ſummons directed to *Thomas Jones, Samuel Martin*, and *George D. Ludlow*, Eſquires, to themſelves reſpectively; that on that day he delivered the ſummons directed to *Gabriel Ludlow* to a woman in his houſe, ſaid to be Mrs. *Ludlow*, his wife, who informed him that Mr. *Gabriel Ludlow* was not at home; and that he alſo left the ſummons directed to *Samuel Clowes* at his houſe, with his wife, who ſaid he was not at home.

That on *Saturday* morning laſt he delivered the ſummonſes directed to *Archibald Hamilton, David Colden*, and *John Willett*, Eſquires, to themſelves reſpectively; that the ſummons directed to *Richard Colden*, he delivered to a woman at his houſe, whom he ſuppoſed to be his wife; that each ſummons which he did not ſerve perſonally, he deſired the perſon to whom he delivered it to ſend or deliver it to the perſon to whom it was directed as ſoon as poſſible. That the ſummons directed to *Thomas Hicks*, at *Rockaway*, he delivered to the Secretary after his return to *New-York*, as the ſaid *Thomas Hicks* is deceaſed upwards of four months ago, from the beſt information which he could obtain.

New-York, June 23, 1776.

Gentlemen: According to your orders of the 22d inſtant to me, I have taken all the priſoners mentioned in them, to wit: *William Forbes, John Clark, Anthony Clark*, and *John Campbell*, whom I have delivered to the guard, and am ready to execute any further commands I ſhall receive, having the guard for this day.

I am, gentlemen, your moſt humble ſervant,

James Abeel.

David Matthews, Eſq., Mayor of the City of *New-York*, being examined, ſaith: That about ſix or ſeven weeks ago the examinant went on board the *Dutcheſs-of-Gordon*, by permiſſion of General *Putnam*, to obtain from the Governour permiſſion for Lord *Drummond* to go to *Bermuda*; that as the examinant was about to leave the *Dutcheſs*, the Governour took him into his private room, and put a bundle of paper money into his hands, telling examinant to take out five pounds and give it to the priſoners in the Jail, and pay the remainder to *Gilbert Forbes*, for ſome rifles and round-bored guns which he had made for him, and for others which the ſaid *Forbes* was to make, and to tell *Forbes* that he did not want any more rifles; that this examinant was ſurpriſed to hear that the ſaid *Forbes* was engaged in that buſineſs, and at the ſame time thought that Governour *Tryon* had put a matter on his ſhoulders which might bring him into ſome difficulty; that the examinant, on his return to this city, conſulted a friend of his, telling him that he would mention a matter to him which he believed would ſurpriſe him; and then informed him that *Gilbert Forbes* had ſupplied the Governour with a number of arms, and was employed in that buſineſs; and that examinant had brought up the money to pay him, at the ſame time mentioning that he thought the Governour had put a hard taſk on his ſhoulders; that examinant then adviſed with him what he ſhould do, and aſked him whether he would take the money and endeavor to convey it to him privately, which he declined doing, and ſaid that he would mention the matter ſo to *Gilbert Forbes* as that he would be able to determine by his anſwers whether he was the man; that to this examinant conſented; that examinant, after leaving his friend, concluded that it would be beſt not to pay the ſaid money to *Forbes*, but to delay it as long as poſſible, that in caſe of a diſcovery, the examinant might avail himſelf of not having paid, although he had received the ſaid money; that ſhortly after *Forbes* called on this examinant, and told him that he had been deſired by the gentleman to whom this examinant had mentioned it, to call on him for the money examinant had received for him of Governour *Tryon*; that examinant then aſked him if it were poſſible that he had been ſending guns on board the Governour's ſhip; to which he anſwered in the affirmative; that examinant then told him he would be hanged if he was found out, and requeſted him, if he regarded his ſafety, that he would not go on with ſuch ſchemes;

that

that he ſaid he could ſend them on board in ſuch a way that nobody could find it out; that he had ſent them on board in a canoe or boat, covered with a ſtraw bed, and two or three old chairs upon it; that he then aſked examinant to pay him the money; to which examinant anſwered, that he was to receive money, and as ſoon as he got it, he would pay it to him; on which they parted; that a few days after he called on examinant again to know whether examinant had received the money, for that he wanted it very much; examinant told him he had not; and the better to account for delays, the examinant had recourſe to this ſubterfuge, that the Governour had given him poſitive orders not to receive any payments for him but in *York* or *Jerſey* money; that with this he ſeemed pleaſed, and requeſted examinant to pay him in that money, becauſe with it he could purchaſe certain articles neceſſary in his buſineſs cheaper than with any other; that he then informed examinant that he had a number of men whom he wanted to ſend down to the Governour; that examinant told him that he might ſave himſelf that trouble, for that the Governour had told this examinant that he had been obliged to turn many on ſhore, and could not receive any more; on which *Forbes* expreſſed ſome concern as to what he ſhould do with them; on which examinant deſired him to tell the men to go to their homes and drop any ſuch ſchemes; that ſhortly after the ſaid *Forbes* again called on this examinant for the money, and mentioned a ſcheme of raiſing a company, and requeſted to know whether he could have a commiſſion; that examinant, on this, begged of him to deſiſt from ſuch a ſcheme, for that he would certainly be diſcovered, and the gallows would be his lot, and that it would be time enough for him to inliſt men or act when he got his commiſſion; that he ſaid he could carry it on ſo as not to be found out, and that he could inliſt a number of the General's Guards; that on this they parted; that this examinant then found out that Mr. *Forbes* became ſo troubleſome to him that, in order to get out of his way and ſtave off the payment aforeſaid, this examinant kept more in the country than he would otherwiſe have done; then, on *Forbes* finding this, he purſued examinant up to *Flatbuſh*, and not finding him there, purſued him to *Polhemus*, about four miles from *Jamaica*, in order to get his money; that this examinant, finding there was no way to get rid of him, told him that on *Monday* examinant would come to town and

pay

pay him his money, which was accordingly done, viz: one hundred and fourteen pounds eight ſhillings, and examinant then hoped that he ſhould not be plagued with him any more; that the next day examinant again came to town, and had been in his houſe but a few minutes when *Forbes* came into examinant's office; that examinant told him he muſt never come into examinant's office any more, on which he went away without ſaying a word; that *John Young*, the examinant's clerk, was preſent and then in the ſaid office, and that examinant has not ſeen the ſaid *Forbes* ſince; that at the time when the ſaid *Forbes* called on the examinant as aforeſaid, he mentioned to this examinant a ſcheme he had of taking poſſeſſion of one of the batteries when the fleet arrived, and another ſcheme of cutting down *King's* bridge; that this examinant deſired his friend above-mentioned to adviſe and beg the ſaid *Forbes* to deſiſt from the ſaid meaſures and give them over; that this examinant has never ſince or before received from Governour *Tryon* any other ſum whatever for any ſuch purpoſes whatever. That ſhortly before the time when this examinant paid the afore-ſaid money to the ſaid *Forbes*, this examinant was at *Waldron's Ferry*, ſtanding near *John Carpenter's* ſloop, and that the ſaid *Forbes*, being in company with one Sergeant *Graham*, turned off from ſaid *Graham* and came up to this examinant; that this examinant aſked him where he had been; he anſwered that he had been to look at all the fortifications; examinant aſked him whether he was not afraid of being taken up by the ſentries, to which he replied that he was not, for that he could go there whenever he pleaſed. That about the time when this examinant paid the money aforeſaid to *Forbes*, this examinant being in office, a man in regimentals came in, which alarmed this examinant; that he aſked him whether he wanted this examinant; he aſked examinant whether he was the Mayor, to which examinant replied he was, and aſked him what he wanted; he obſerved to this examinant, that examinant did not know him, for that he had never ſeen him before; examinant ſaid he did not know him; he told examinant he was one of General *Waſhington's* Guards, and meant to ſerve the king; examinant told him he had nothing to do with inliſting men for the king; he ſaid he had inliſted ſome that morning himſelf, and was about to pull a paper out of his pocket, in order to ſhow examinant their names; that examinant told him he did not want to know their

names

names, and had nothing to do with them, and adviſed him to return to his quarters, for that if he was diſcovered he would be brought to the gallows ; on which he went away, and examinant has neither ſeen nor heard of him ſince. That another man, a little before the time laſt-mentioned, who ſaid he came from the country, and knew examinant's father and brother, came to this examinant to ſee if he could not get on board the ſhip; examinant aſked him why he left his home; he ſaid he had been ſo perſecuted he could not ſtay; examinant adviſed him to return and keep himſelf quiet, and that examinant imagined nobody would hurt him; that he replied he muſt and would get on board ſome how or other, for that he did not dare to go back; examinant then aſked his name, which he told him was *Forbes;* examinant told him then that he did not know of a likelier perſon to ſerve him than a nameſake of his that was in town; he aſked examinant if he meant *Gilbert Forbes*, to which he replied yes; he ſaid he knew him, and went in queſt of him; and that examinant has never ſeen him ſince. That ſeveral other perſons, unknown to this examinant, have at different times called on this examinant to inquire how they might get on board the ſhip, and that examinant always adviſed them to return home; and ſince examinant's interview aforeſaid with the Governour, he told ſuch as called upon him for the purpoſe aforeſaid that there was no room for them on board; that many had been turned away, and that they had better go home. That this examinant has no further knowledge than what he has as aforeſaid declared relative to any perſons being engaged in the buſineſs of inliſting men for the King's ſervice, or in keeping up a communication between the city and the Governour's ſhip, or men-of-war at the *Narrows*. That this examinant does not know otherwiſe than by ſight, and has never ſpoken or written a line to *Peter McLean*, a ſhoemaker in the town, on any ſubject whatever.

D. Matthews.

New-York, June 23, 1776.—— Examined by

Philip Livingston,
John Jay,
Gouverneur Morris.

William Forbes, of *Goſhen* Precinct, in *Orange* County, Tanner and Currier, being examined, ſaith: That he knows *Gilbert Forbes*, of the city

city of *New York*, gunſmith; that the firſt time he ſaw him was in this city, between the Brick Meeting and the Jail; that he heard ſomebody call him Mr *Forbes*; this examinant accoſted him and told him that his name was *Forbes* alſo; that thereupon they went into *Houlding's* tavern and drank together; that he has been at the houſe of the ſaid *Gilbert Forbes*, on an invitation from him. That he knows a Sergeant in General *Waſhington's* Guards, but cannot recollect his name; that he became acquainted with him at *Corby's*, (an inn-keeper,) near General Waſhington's; that this examinant went to *Corby's* in company with one *James Maſon*, of *Ringwood*, who was at work in *Corby's* garden; that the Sergeant was a middle-ſized, freſh complexioned man —— an *Engliſhman;* that examinant became acquainted with *James Maſon* at *Dutcheſs* County; afterwards ſaw him at *Goſhen*, and from thence came in company with him to this town; that he told *Maſon* he had been on board the man-of-war laſt winter, while ſhe lay in the *Eaſt River;* that he never was on board the *Dutcheſs-of-Gordon*; that he never ſaid he was on board the *Savage* when ſhe fired on *Staten-Iſland*. That he had heard, and, among others, from the ſaid *Maſon*, that two hundred acres of land were offered by Governour *Tryon* to each man who would go in the King's ſervice, and one hundred to the wife, and fifty to each child. That examinant borrowed twenty odd ſhillings of *Maſon*, and promiſed to repay him when examinant got money from on board the man-of-war, where he had two brothers-in-law, who had promiſed to ſend him money to pay his debts. That he never engaged with Governour *Tryon*, or with any other perſon whatever to undertake the buſineſs of inliſting ſoldiers for the King, nor of enticing the Continental ſoldiers to leave that ſervice. That he and *Maſon* came to town by way of *Elizabethtown*, and that at *Warwick*, *Maſon* perſuaded one *William Benjamin* to go along with them. That he knows *Peter McLean*, a ſhoemaker, near the Exchange; that examinant applied to him to put him on board the man-of-war; that *McLean* anſwered he could not do it at all, the ſentries were ſo ſtrict; that examinant then ſaid to *McLean* that then he would inliſt in the Continental ſervice, which he has ſince done, in Captain *Beekman's* Company, of *Laſher's* Battalion. That examinant, *Maſon*, and *Benjamin* lodged, the firſt night they came to town, at *Houlding's;* that while they were there *Corby* was introduced

to

to *Benjamin* and *Maſon* by *Gilbert Forbes; Corby* took them to his houſe, where this examinant has ſeen them, in company with *Gilbert Forbes* and the aforeſaid Sergeant of the Guards. This examinant ſaw the ſaid Sergeant and *Gilbert Forbes* adminiſter oaths of ſecrecy to *Maſon* and two or three ſoldiers; that *Corby* was preſent when the ſaid ſoldiers were ſworn as aforeſaid. That after *McLean* had, as aforeſaid, told this examinant that he knew not how to get on board the man-of-war, *McLean* recommended him to *David Matthews*, Eſq., as a proper perſon to direct him how to get on board the man-of-war; that examinant accordingly went to Mr. *Matthews* and told him that *McLean* had directed examinant to him as a proper perſon to tell him how he ſhould get on board the man-of war, and that there was a lad (meaning *Maſon*) who had come down from *Ringwood*, and wanted to go along; that Mr. *Matthews* told him it was too dangerous for him to ſay anything about it, but that he would direct him to one that could get him on board, and ſent this examinant for that purpoſe to *Gilbert Forbes;* that this examinant accordingly applied to the ſaid *Gilbert Forbes*, and that *Forbes* ſaid he could not do anything in it till he had ſeen *Corby*; that ſhortly after the ſaid *Gilbert Forbes* told this examinant that he had ſeen *Corby*, and that *Corby* ſaid he would get examinant on board in a few days; that examinant afterwards ſaw *Corby*, and that he made the like promiſe to examinant, but *Corby* afterwards told him he could not; and that he had been able to ſend only one on board, by a mulatto fellow. That this examinant knows *John Clarke;* and that he told this examinant that he had fifty or ſixty men to go in the King's ſervice, and that he had prevailed upon his brother, *Anthony Clarke*, to conſent to go with them; that *John Clarke* was to be a Captain, and that one *Seely*, of *Cheſter*, in *Orange* County was alſo to be one of the officers.

WILLIAM FORBES.

Examined the 23d day of *June*, 1776, before us:

JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

City of NEW-YORK, *ss:*

James Savage, being examined, ſaith, That he hath not, during the preſent troubles, inliſted or engaged any men in the ſervice of the King,

or kept up or held any correſpondence with any perſons on board the *Dutcheſs-of-Gordon*, or the ſhips or veſſels of war at the *Narrows*.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

New-York, June 23, 1776.

John Clarke, of *Blooming Grove*, in *Orange* County, Painter and Glazier, ſaith, That he never hath inliſted any men for the King, nor engaged any; nor hath he ever ſaid ſo. That he hath ſeen *Gilbert Forbes* at his ſhop; went there with *William Forbes* to ſee if ſaid *Gilbert* would ſubſcribe for a perſpective view of *Quebeck;* that he did not tell *William Forbes* that he was concerned in inliſting men, nor that he was employed by Governour *Tryon*; that he did not tell ſaid *William Forbes*, or any other perſon, that he had inliſted any men, that he did not deſire *Gilbert Forbes* to get him a paſſage on board the Governour's ſhip, and that he never hath been on board the Governour's ſhip, nor attempted to go there.

JOHN CLARKE.

Examination taken the 23d *June*, 1776, before us:

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

John Kearl, of the city of *New-York*, Shoemaker, being ſworn, ſaith, That he has for ſome time paſt worked as a journeyman with *Peter McLean*, near the Exchange; that the ſaid *McLean* has worked, and both made and mended ſhoes for people on board the *Aſia* ſince ſhe has been down at the *Narrows*, as the ſaid *McLean* informed this deponent; but this deponent knows not in what manner the ſaid ſhoes were conveyed on board, or by whom. That this deponent has ſeen a countryman of the name of *Forbes*, frequently at *McLean's*, alſo one *Houlding*, an Inn-keeper near the Barracks, and *Edward Nicolls*, confectioner; and further ſaith not.

JOHN KEARL.

Examined and ſworn 23d *June*, 1776, by and before

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

City

City of NEW-YORK, *ss:*

Abraham Ackerman, commonly called *Abraham Jones*, of *Clarkeſtown*, *Orange* County, being ſworn, ſaith, That about a fortnight or three weeks ago this deponent came to this city in order to get a birth on board ſome veſſel; that he lodged at the houſe of *Peter McLean*, a ſhoemaker, near the Exchange; that he has ſeen one Mr. *Edward Nicolls* and one *Peter Lenge*, a confectioner, often at *McLean's*, and heard them talk very much like Tories; that he has often ſeen a man there whoſe name he has ſince heard to be *Forbes*, a countryman; that *McLean* uſed to go fiſhing often; that this deponent believes that *McLean* is now at *Bull's Ferry* —his wife has gone there (as he ſays,) once or twice a week ever ſince *McLean* left this city, which was at the time ſome Tories were carried about on rails; and further ſaith not.

ABRAHAM ACKERMAN.

Sworn and examined the 23d *June*, 1776, before us:

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

John Craig, late a ſoldier of the Eighteenth Regiment, being duly ſworn upon the Holy Evangeliſts of *Almighty God*, depoſeth and ſaith, That being now a priſoner in the common jail of the City and County of *New-York*, he has frequently obſerved that Captain *Savage*, a priſoner now in the ſaid jail, hath received ſundry letters from perſons on board the King's ſhip and the *Dutcheſs-of-Gordon*, as he believes, by means of one *James*, a tall man, with lightiſh coloured clothes, marked with the ſmall-pox, light hair, about forty years of age; and another of the name of *Matthews*, a perſon about five feet ſix inches high, well ſet and a dark complexion; that the laſt of the two on *Wedneſday* laſt was in the jail, and this deponent heard Captain *Savage* ſay, '*Matthews*, ſtay a few minutes and I will have them all ready; meaning certain letters which he was then writing, to go on board the ſaid ſhips. And this deponent further ſaith, that the ſaid Captain *Savage*, hath inveigled a number of the Continental troops to inliſt in his Majeſty's ſervice, among whom are one *Irwin*, belonging to Captain *Hardenbergh's* Company, and late of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment of Foot; *Peter McCloſkey*, of the ſame company

company, a fifer, and late of the ſame regiment; *Richard Smith*, of the ſame company, late of the Seventh Regiment of Foot; and *James Johnſon*, a fifer of the General's Guards. And this deponent further ſaith, that *Gilbert Forbes*, who is, as he is informed, committed by order of a Committee of the Congreſs, is confined in the room oppoſite to him; that a ſentry was placed on the outſide of the door of the room in which ſaid *Forbes* is confined; that the outer and inner doors were ſhut; and, about ten o'clock at night, *Peter Chiles*, at the requeſt of ſaid *Forbes*, and of the Tories, in the jail, opened the inner door, that ſaid *Forbes* might as he ſaid have air; that *Chiles* opened the inner door by puſhing the bolts back with the ramming-rod of the ſentry, who was placed at the door. That after the door was opened, the ſaid *Forbes*, by means of a hole in the outer door, converſed freely with the Tories in the paſſage; that *Harris* the midſhipman taken by the Riflemen from on board the *Savage*, and Mr. *Medcalf*, ſpoke to him; and the ſaid *Forbes* gave two half pints of liquor to the woman to ſing Tory ſongs. And further this deponent ſaith, that Mr. *Harris* hath written ſundry letters, as well as the ſaid Captain *Savage*, to go on board the ſaid ſhips; and that Mr. *Harris* and Mr. *Elder* are, as this deponent believes, concerned with the ſaid Captain *Savage* in inliſting the men; and further this deponent ſaith not.

JOHN CRAIG.

Sworn the 23d of *June*, 1776, before us:

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

City of NEW-YORK, *ss:*

John Andrews, a Corporal of Captain *Dewit's* Minute Company at *Rhinebeck*, and now a priſoner in the ſame room with the above-named *John Craig*, being duly ſworn, depoſeth and ſaith, That the ſeveral matters and facts in the above depoſition contained are, to the beſt of his knowledge and belief, true, the ſaid *John Andrew*, from being confined in the ſame room with the ſaid *John Craig*, being in the like manner

manner with the ſaid *John Craig* privy to the ſeveral matters and things contained in the ſaid affidavit.

his
"JOHN ✕ ANDREW.
mark.

Sworn the 23d of *June*, 1776, before us:

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

Monday, ten o'clock A. M., June 24, 1776.

The Committee met in the Council-Chamber in the City-Hall of the City of New-York, purſuant to the agreement of Yeſterday, the Court-Room being occupied by priſoners and guard.

Preſent: *John Jay*, Eſq., Chairman, Mr. *Philip Livingſton*, Mr. *Hobart*, Mr. *Randall*, Colonel *Graham*, Mr. *Morris*, Mr. *Ganſevoort*

Mr. *Axtell* attended in purſuance of the ſummons from this Committee, and returnable this day.

The Chairman informed Mr. *Axtell* of the Reſolutions of the Congreſs relative to perſons of equivocal character, and told him the Committee hoped he would give them evidence of his being a friend to the *American* cauſe.

Mr. *Axtell* appealed to the uniform tenour of his conduct, which he ſaid, had never been unfriendly to this country.

The Chairman then aſked him whether he approved of the *American* oppoſition. He replied that he did not of the whole, and ſignified his diſapprobation of the *Canada* expedition.

The Chairman aſked him whether he thought the Parliament of *Great Britain* had a right to bind theſe Colonies in all caſes whatſoever. To which he replied that, in his opinion, they had not.

The Chairman then aſked him whether reſiſtance by arms to the hoſtile attempts of the *Britiſh* fleets and armies, to execute and enforce thoſe claims to this queſtion, was juſtifiable.

Mr. *Axtell* declined to give an anſwer, declaring that he did not mean to take an active part on either ſide — that the bulk of his fortune was in *Britain* and the *Weſt-Indies*.

Mr. *Axtell* was then deſired to withdraw.

And

And the Committee went into a conſideration of Mr. *Axtell's*, caſe in the courſe of which the following queſtions were put by the Chairman. Whether Mr. *Axtell* is ſuch a friend to the country as is deſcribed in the ſaid reſolutions? Carried unanimouſly in the negative.

2d. Whether it is neceſſary to remove Mr. Axtell from his preſent place of reſidence? On which Mr. *Morris* moved that the queſtion be deferred for conſideration. Which was carried in the negative.

The queſtion being then put, Whether he ſhall be removed from his preſent place of reſidence? Agreed unanimouſly in the negative.

The queſtion was then put, whether any other ſecurity ſhould be demanded of Mr. *Axtell* than his parole? Agreed unanimouſly that his parole is ſufficient, and that no other ſecurity be required.

Mr. *Axtell* was then called in, and deſired to give his parole that he would not, directly or indirectly, oppoſe or contravene the meaſures of the Continental Congreſs or of the Congreſs of this Colony. Mr. *Axtell* objected that the parole is ſo broad that it may admit of diſagreeable conſtructions of ſuch part of his conduct as he may think the moſt innocent, and offered to give his parole not to take an active part againſt the *American* cauſe.

A copy of the parole was then given unto him, and he was deſired to conſider the ſame, and attend this Committee again on *Thurſday* next.

John Willett, Eſq., attending on a ſummons returnable here this day, was called in; and the reſolutions of the Congreſs of this Colony as to perſons of equivocal character, read to him by the Chairman.

The ſaid *John Willett*, was then aſked by the Chairman whether he had any evidence to give, or could ſhow cauſe why he ſhould be conſidered as a friend to *America*, &c. To which he replied that he had no other reaſon but his opinion that the Parliament have no right to lay internal taxes on *America*.

Said *John Willett* was then aſked if he would ſign the Aſſociation by the Provincial Congreſs made on the 20th inſtant. To which he replied that he had no other objection to it but that he did not chooſe to take up arms.

Said *John Willett* was then aſked whether he thought the cauſe of *America* juſt or unjuſt. To which he replied he was not a proper judge of the matter.

Said

Said *John Willett* was then aſked whether he was for the Congreſs or againſt it. To which he replied he was not againſt it.

Said *John Willett* was then aſked if he was for the Congreſs. To which he replied he ſhould never diſturb them.

Said *John Willett* was then aſked to whom he wiſhed ſucceſs — General *Waſhington* or General *Howe*. To which he replied he wiſhed thoſe might ſucceed who had juſtice on their ſide.

Said *John Willett* was then aſked on which ſide he thought juſtice was. To which he replied he was no judge, but wiſhed that juſtice might take place.

The ſaid *John Willett* was then requeſted to withdraw.

Reſolved unanimouſly, That the ſaid *John Willett* is not a friend to the cauſe and rights of *America*.

Reſolved unanimouſly, That it is not neceſſary to remove the ſaid *John Willett* from his ſtated place of reſidence.

Reſolved unanimouſly, That the ſaid *John Willett* give bond to the Preſident of the Congreſs of this Colony for the time being, by name, in the ſum of two thouſand pounds, that he will neither directly nor indirectly contravene or oppoſe the meaſures of the Continental Congreſs or of the Congreſs of this Colony.

The ſaid *John Willett* was then called in, and did conſent to give ſuch bond; wherefore,

Ordered, that Mr. *McKeſſon* prepare and get the ſame executed by the ſaid *John Willett*.

Know all men by theſe preſents, that I, *John Willett*, of the Townſhip of *Jamaica*, in *Queens* County, of the Colony of *New-York*, Eſquire, am held and firmly bound unto *John Haring*, Eſq., Preſident of the Congreſs of the Colony of *New-York*, in the ſum of two thouſand pounds, lawful money of *New-York*, to be paid to the ſaid *John Haring* or to his certain attorney, executors, adminiſtrators and aſſigns; for which payment well and truly to be made and done, I bind myſelf, my heirs, executors and adminiſtrators, firmly by theſe preſents.

Sealed with my ſeal, and dated this twenty-fourth day of *June*, in the year of our Lord one thouſand, ſeven hundred and ſeventy-ſix.

The condition of the above obligation is ſuch, that if the above-bound *John Willett* ſhall neither directly nor indirectly oppoſe or contravene the

the meaſures of the Continental Congreſs or the Congreſs of this Colony, then the above obligation to be void; otherwiſe to remain in full force and virtue.

JOHN WILLETT.

Sealed and delivered in the preſence of us:

ROBERT BENSON,
JOHN MCKESSON.

Captain *Archibald Hamilton*, attending on the ſummons, returnable here this day, was called in.

The Chairman informed Captain *Hamilton* of the reaſons of his being ſo ſummoned, and read to him the reſolutions of Congreſs relative to perſons of equivocal character, and told him he was conſidered as of that number; and that the Committee hoped he would give them ſatisfactory evidence of his being a friend to *America*.

Captain *Hamilton* thereupon obſerved that he loved *America:* that he fought and bled and been in irons for her; that he wiſhes her free and happy; and that no promiſes or offers of reward or preferment could tempt him to draw his ſword againſt her; that he has refuſed ſuch offers, and that he holds no office or commiſſion whatever under the King of *Great Britain;* that he has a brother and other near relations now ſerving in the King's armies, and that he could not think of unſheathing his ſword againſt them or the King.

Captain *Hamilton*, on being aſked by the chairman, whether, in his opinion, the Parliament of *Great Britain* have a right to bind theſe Colonies in all caſes whatſoever; ſaid he was not ſufficiently acquainted with ſubjects of that kind to anſwer the queſtion; but that if he had twenty hearts, he would ſooner loſe the blood in them all than loſe his liberty.

The chairman then aſked him whether he would give his parole of honour neither directly nor indirectly to oppoſe or contravene the meaſures of the Continental Congreſs or the Congreſs of this Colony; to which he anſwered that he would very readily, for that he never would injure *America* in word, thought, or deed.

Captain *Hamilton* was then deſired to withdraw, and the committee proceeded to take his caſe into conſideration. The reſult of which was, that they

Reſolved

Reſolved, That Captain *Hamilton* was not ſuch a friend to the *American* cauſe as is deſcribed in the ſaid reſolutions of the Congreſs; that it was unneceſſary that he ſhould be removed from the place of his preſent reſidence; that confidence might be repoſed in him as a man of honour; and therefore that his parole was ſufficient ſecurity for his not oppoſing or contravening the meaſures of the Continental Congreſs or the Congreſs of this Colony.

Captain *Hamilton* was then called in, and on his agreeing to give ſuch parole, it was reduced to writing, and, on his ſigning it, was diſcharged.

New-York, June 24, 1776.

I, *Archibald Hamilton*, Eſq., do declare upon my honour that I will not, directly or indirectly, oppoſe or contravene the meaſures of the Continental Congreſs or of the Congreſs of this Colony.

ARCH. HAMILTON.

John Yates, of the *Wallkill* Precinct, in *Ulſter* County, labourer, being ſworn, ſaith: That early in this laſt ſpring *Abſalom Bull*, one of deponent's neighbours, came to him and told him he was but a poor man, and that if he would go with the ſaid *Bull*, he would make a gentleman of this deponent. That this deponent aſked him how. He replied that if this deponent would go and ſerve the King for three years, or to the end of the *American* war if that ſhould ſooner happen, this deponent ſhould have two hundred acres of land on the frontiers. That deponent ſaid it was very uncertain, for he did not ſee how he was to get a warranty deed for it; but if he could get a warranty deed for two hundred acres of land, he did not know but he might engage. On this they parted. That for many days repeatedly after that, the ſaid *Abſalom Bull*, together with *Iſaac Waugh* and *Richard Bull*, came to this deponent and preſſed him to enter into the King's ſervice, but the deponent put them off. That they afterwards went, as they informed this deponent, on board the man-of-war, and when they returned, brought him a letter from Governour *Tryon*, informing this deponent that if he would come on board his ſhip and pilot the men-of-war up the *North River*, he would give this deponent a dollar a day and five pounds a foot for every foot that the veſſel

he piloted drew more than twenty feet, and ſhould have two hundred acres of land at the determination of the *American* war; and that *Ireland, Scotland and Wales* had all united with *England* to ſubdue *America*. That this deponent had, till within a few years laſt paſt, been a ſeafaring man, and was well acquainted with the navigation of the *North River*, which was well known to his ſaid neighbours, and, as this deponent believes, was by them made known to Governour *Tryon* That this deponent afterwards received two other letters of the like import, from Governour *Tryon*. That about ſix weeks ago this deponent, together with the ſaid *Abſalom Bull, Richard Bull, and Iſaac Waugh*, travelled from their homes down through *Weſtcheſter* County to *White-Stone* Ferry, where they croſſed over to *Long-Iſland*, and thence to *Hempſtead*, and went to the houſe of one *Simonſon*, a tavern-keeper, in that town; that they went from thence to the houſe of Captain *Hulet*, where they all lodged; that the next morning this deponent's companions went off from *Rockaway* in an oyſter-boat that plied between that coaſt and the ſhips, and ſupplied them with proviſions, as he was informed and believed; that they deſired this deponent to go with them, but this deponent being ſick, and not much inclined to go on board, ſaid he would wait at Captain *Hulet's* till their return; that after three days they all returned to this deponent at Captain *Hulet's*, aforeſaid, and that Colonel *Fanning*, the Governour's ſecretary, came with them; that the ſaid Colonel *Fanning* was well known to this deponent, he having often ſeen him, and this deponent having been a mariner in Captain *Hunter's* ſhip, which brought the Colonel from *England*; that at preſent this deponent did not know Colonel *Fanning*, he being diſguiſed in the dreſs of a common labouring man, but on taking this deponent aſide he made himſelf known to him, whereupon this deponent immediately recollected his face and perſon; that he aſked this deponent to go on board with him; this deponent anſwered that he was too ſick to go; that then the Colonel told him that if he could not go then, he muſt come down when the fleet arrived, and that they would ſend this deponent a letter to inform him of it, to which this deponent agreed. That Colonel *Fanning* told him *New-York* was to be the ſeat of war; that ſome of the fleet would run into the Sound, and land troops on *Long-Iſland*; that another diviſion would land

land on the ſouth ſide and hoiſt the King's Standard; and that all the men that engaged to ſerve the King ſhould come to *Long-Iſland* and join them, and that cannon was already provided in different parts of *Long-Iſland*, and that there were then three field-pieces and a mortar-piece under the floor of the barn of the ſaid *Simonſon*. The ſaid Colonel *Fanning* alſo told this deponent that they ſhould want him to pilot veſſels of war up the *North River*, and that the *Savage*, *Phenix*, and *Shuldan* (which, he believes, was formerly the *Rhode-Iſland* packet) were deſigned for that ſervice. That the Colonel deſired this deponent to bring all the proviſions he could on board the ſhips, and that he ſhould receive the following prices for them, viz., five pounds a barrel for ſalt pork, one ſhilling per pound for gammons, eighteen pence per pound for butter, and a good price for fowls, eggs, &c., and then gave this deponent a paper (now delivered) with a ſeal on it, and the letters W. T. on the back of it, and told this deponent that it would ſerve him as a paſs to go by all the men-of-war and cruiſers unmoleſted. That Colonel *Fanning* further told this deponent that *Abſalom Bull*, aforeſaid, had inliſted a great many men, and deſired this deponent to do the like, but this deponent declined it. That this deponent knows *John Clarke*, a painter; that he ſaw him in this town about a fortnight ago; that he told this deponent he was going on board the ſhips, and requeſted this deponent to go with him, which this deponent refuſed; that he adviſed this deponent to engage to fight for the King, and ſaid the *Americans* would be beat. That the aforeſaid *Abſalom Bull* this ſpring ſhowed this deponent a liſt of perſons whom he had inliſted for the King's ſervice; that the ſaid *Abſalom* told this deponent that there were two hundred names on it, which this deponent really believes to be true, but this deponent does not remember the names of any of them, except *Richard Bull*, *Alexander Scadden*, *James Scadden*, *Iſaac Waugh*, *John Clarke*, (the painter aforeſaid) *Jewel Smith*, and one *Seely*, of a place in *Orange* County, called *Oxford*. That *Abſalom Bull* aforeſaid was to be a Captain, and had a commiſſion for it from Governour *Tryon*, which he ſhowed to this deponent, and that it was written on parchment, and a great ſeal hanging to it, but that this deponent did not read it. The ſaid *Abſalom Bull* further ſaid, that all the men ſo inliſted for the King's ſervice were to join the

the fleet when it arrived, and that all who did not, would be treated as deſerters from the King's ſervice.

his
JOHN ⋈ YATES.
mark.

Sworn the 24th *June*, 1776, before us.

JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

To Captain ABEEL, *of Colonel* LASHER's *Battalion:*

SIR: Whereas —— *Simerſon*, of the Townſhip of *Hempſtead* in *Queen's* County, Inn-keeper, ſtands charged with dangerous deſigns and treaſonable conſpiracies againſt the rights and liberties of *America*, and that for the perpetration of ſuch wicked deſigns and conſpiracies he hath divers cannon and other implements of war now concealed: we therefore by virtue of the power and authority unto us given by a reſolve of the Congreſs of this Colony of the 20th of *June* inſtant, do authorize and require you to cauſe to be apprehended and ſecured the ſaid —— *Simerſon* with all his papers, and to make ſearch for and take all Cannon and other implements of war whatſoever in his houſe, barn, and outhouſes; and that return be made to us of the manner in which this warrant ſhall be executed, in order that the ſame may be made known to the ſaid Congreſs.

Given under our hands this 24th day of *June*, 1776.

In the Council-Chamber of the City-Hall of the City of New-York, June 25, 1776.

The Committee met purſuant to adjournment.

Preſent—*John Jay*, Eſq., Chairman; Mr. *Philip Livingſton*, Mr. *Hobart*, Colonel *Graham*, Mr. *Tredwell*, Mr. *Morris*, and Mr. *Ganſevoort*.

Mr. *Hobart* and Colonel *Graham* reported a draft of a Warrant to be iſſued againſt ſuch perſons of equivocal character as may neglect or refuſe to appear on ſummons; which being read, amended, and agreed to, is in the words following, to wit:

To . . . . . :

Whereas the Congreſs of the Colony of *New-York*, on the 5th day of *June* inſtant, did paſs certain reſolutions, reciting, among other things, that

that 'whereas there are in this Colony divers perſons who, by reaſon of their holding offices from the King of *Great Britain*—from their having neglected or refuſed to aſſociate with their fellow-citizens for the defence of their common rights—from their having never manifeſted, by their conduct, a zeal for, and an attachment to the *American* cauſe—or from their having maintained an equivocal neutrality, have been conſidered by their countrymen in a ſuſpicious light—whereby it hath become neceſſary, as well for the ſafety as for the ſatisfaction of the people, (who, in times ſo dangerous and critical, are naturally led to conſider thoſe as their enemies who withhold from them their aid and influence,) that ſundry perſons in the ſaid reſolution named, of which number . . . . . is one, and alſo all ſuch other perſons of the like character as we, a Committee of the ſaid Congreſs for that purpoſe by the reſolutions aforeſaid duly appointed and authorized, may think proper, be ſummoned to appear before us at ſuch time and place as we ſhould appoint, then and there to ſhow cauſe, if any they have, why they ſhould be conſidered as friends to the *American* cauſe, and as of the number of thoſe who are ready to riſk their lives and fortunes in defence of the rights and liberties of *America* againſt the uſurpation, unjuſt claims, and cruel oppreſſions of the *Britiſh* Parliament—which rights and liberties, and which unjuſt claims, and cruel oppreſſions, are ſpecified and ſtated in divers addreſſes, petitions, and reſolutions, of the preſent and late Continental Congreſſes;' and in default of appearance, we, the Committee aforeſaid, on proof made of the ſervice of the ſaid ſummons, are authorized and directed to cauſe them to be arreſted and brought before us by warrant under our hands, directed to any militia officer in this Colony, who is, by the ſaid reſolves, required to execute the ſame; and whereas, in purſuance of the reſolutions aforeſaid of the ſaid Congreſs, we, the Committee aforeſaid, did, on the . . . day of *June* inſtant, iſſue our ſummons to the above mentioned . . . . . to appear before us at the City-Hall of the City of New-York, on . . . . . the . . . . . day of . . . . . , at . . . . . o'clock in the . . . . noon of the ſaid day to ſhow cauſe, if any he had, why he ſhould be conſidered as a friend to the common cauſe; and which ſummons was duly ſerved on the ſaid . . . . . , as appears by the return of . . . . . , the Meſſenger of this Congreſs, thereto duly appointed and ſworn; and whereas ſaid . . . . . did not appear in purſuance of

of the ſummons aforeſaid, but hath made default; We, therefore, the Committee aforeſaid, in purſuance of the truſt repoſed in us by the reſolves aforeſaid, do authorize and require you forthwith to arreſt and bring before us, at the City-Hall of the City of *New-York*, the above-named . . . . . , for the purpoſe aforeſaid, and to abide ſuch order in the premiſes as by us may be made; and bring with you then there this warrant.

Given at *New-York*.

Mr. *Hobart* and Colonel *Graham* reported a draft of a ſummons to perſons inimical to the cauſe and rights of *America*; which being read, was agreed to, and is in the words following, to wit:

Whereas, by certain Reſolutions of the Congreſs of the Colony of *New-York*, of the 5th day of *June* inſtant, we, a Committee of the ſaid Congreſs, were authorized and required to ſummon certain perſons, whoſe conduct had been repreſented to the ſaid Congreſs as inimical to the cauſe and rights of *America*, of which number you are one, to appear before us at ſuch time and place as we might think proper, then and there to anſwer to ſuch matters and things as ſhall be alleged againſt them, and ſhow cauſe (if any they have) why they ſhould be conſidered as friends to the *American* cauſe: We do, therefore, in purſuance of the truſt repoſed in us by the ſaid reſolutions, ſummon you to appear before us for the purpoſes aforeſaid, at the City-Hall of the City of New-York, on . . . . . the . . . . . day of . . . . . , at . . . . . o'clock in the forenoon of the ſame day.

Ordered, That the Secretary prepare all the Summonſes directed to be iſſued to the perſons named in the ſaid reſolutions of Congreſs by to-morrow morning.

Ordered, alſo, That a number of Warrants aforeſaid be prepared. The Committee then adjourned for an hour to meet again at *Scott's Tavern*, in *Wall* Street.

George Brewerton, of the City of *New-York*, Eſquire, being examined ſaith: That he never was engaged in any deſign of inliſting men to ſerve the King againſt the *Americans*; nor was he otherwiſe acquainted with the exiſtence of any ſuch deſign, except in the following manner: Captain *Benſon*, about three weeks ago, told this examinant he had heard that *Gilbert Forbes* was employed in inliſting men for the King's ſervice, and

and aſked this examinant whether he knew anything of it. That examinant told him he knew nothing of the matter, and that if *Forbes* had engaged in that buſineſs he was a fool. That this examinant afterwards aſked *Forbes* about it, and told him if he inliſted any men in that way he did wrong. That *Forbes* replied, that there was nothing in it, and that he was not engaged in any ſuch buſineſs. That this deponent, inſtead of aiding the Miniſterial armies, had adviſed and perſuaded men to inliſt in the Continental ſervice; and without being applied to by the Committee for that purpoſe did diſpoſe of ſeven or eight firelocks to be employed in the defence of the *American* cauſe, and would have remained in this city and aſſiſted in defending it had it not been for the late riotous proceedings againſt perſons ſuſpected of being Tories, under which ſuſpicion this examinant had fallen, as he ſuppoſes, from his refuſing to ſign the Aſſociation of the Committee of Safety, to which he, as well as many other good friends to the cauſe, refuſed to ſubſcribe.

That this examinant has ſigned the firſt Aſſociation, and has no objection to ſigning the laſt, in common with his fellow citizens. That about five weeks ago, *David Matthews*, Eſq., aſked this examinant whether he knew *Forbes*. That this deponent ſaid he knew moſt of the *Forbeſes;* and aſked Mr. *Matthews* why. He ſaid that he had an account againſt Governour *Tryon*, and that the Governour had ſent money by him to pay *Forbes*. That the examinant then aſked Mr. *Matthews* how the Governour came to owe him money. He replied that he believed it was for rifle-guns that he had ſent him. On which this examinant obſerved that it muſt be *Gilbert Forbes*, the gunſmith; and that this examinant ſaid he did not take him for ſuch a fellow. Mr. *Matthews* ſaid that he was alſo much ſurpriſed. Examinant ſaid he would ſpeak to *Forbes*. That examinant afterwards ſaw *Forbes*, and aſked him whether he had an account againſt Governor *Tryon;* to which he anſwered no. That examinant aſked him if he had not ſent things to the Governour; to which he ſaid no. That examinant then ſaid he thought he had heard the Mayor ſay he had received money for him from Governour *Tryon*. *Forbes* then confeſſed that the Governour owed him money. Examinant then left him without further queſtions. That ſome time afterwards examinant received a few lines from Mr. Mayor, with ſome money, informing this examinant that he was going out of town, and requeſting him

him to deliver it to *Forbes*, which examinant did. That this examinant does not remember that the Mayor desired him to dissuade *Forbes* from the prosecution of any designs against *America*; but that this examinant did, as aforesaid, of his own accord, call upon *Forbes*, and so dissuade him as above related.

This examinant most solemnly declares that he never entertained or was concerned in any design whatever against the interest and safety of *America*.

GEORGE BREWERTON.

Taken before us the 25th of *June*, 1776.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

Know all men by these presents, that we, *George Brewerton* and *Jacob Brewerton* of the City of *New-York*, Esquires, are held and firmly bound unto *John Haring*, Esq., President of the Congress of the Colony of *New-York*, in the sum of five hundred pounds, lawful money of the Colony of *New-York*, to be paid to the said *John Haring*, his executors, administrators, or assigns; for the payment whereof we do bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally by these presents. Sealed with our seals, and dated the 25th day of *June*, 1776.

The condition of this obligation is such, that if the above bounden *George Brewerton* shall, upon reasonable notice unto him given, or left at the usual place of his abode, attend the Provincial Congress, or a Committee of the said Congress, at such time and place as he shall be required, then the above obligation to be void, else to remain in force.

GEORGE BREWERTON,
JACOB BREWERTON.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

Whereas *George Brewerton*, Esquire, stood charged before us with being

being privy to certain dangerous deſigns and treaſonable conſpiracies againſt the rights and liberties of *America*; and whereas, after ſtrict inquiry into the ſeveral allegations againſt the ſaid *George Brewerton*, we are of opinion that the ſaid charge is not well founded: We, therefore, in juſtice to the ſaid *George Brewerton*, do hereby certify the ſame. And as the ſaid *George Brewerton*, together with *Jacob Brewerton*, have given bond to the Preſident of the Congreſs of this Colony for the appearance of him, the ſaid *George Brewerton*, before the Congreſs of this Colony whenever called upon, for his good behaviour as a friend to the *American* cauſe, do diſmiſs him from all further attendance upon us.

Given under our hands the 25th day of *June*, 1776.

To Mr. WYNANT VAN ZANDT, *a Lieutenant in Colonel* LASHER'S BATTALION:

Whereas *Nicholas Connery*, of the City of *New-York*, Innkeeper, ſtands charged before us, by the oath of *Hugh Stevenſon*, with having ſold to the ſaid *Hugh* certain quantities of gunpowder, which there is great reaſon to ſuſpect the ſaid *Nicholas* obtained from the enemies of *America*, and for the purpoſe of injuring its cauſe; and whereas it is repreſented to us that the ſaid *Nicholas* is notoriouſly diſaffected to the *American* cauſe: We do, therefore, in purſuance of a certain reſolve of the Congreſs of the Colony of *New-York*, authorize and require you to apprehend the ſaid *Nicholas Connery*, and make diligent ſearch in his dwelling-houſe and other buildings for gunpowder, and other implements of war, and the ſame in ſafe cuſtody to keep, and the ſaid *Nicholas* forthwith to bring before us, to the end that we may inquire into the premiſes, and make ſuch order in the premiſes as may be neceſſary; and make your returns to us of the manner in which you ſhall execute this warrant.

Given under our hands this 25th day of *June*, 1776.

JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

City of NEW-YORK, ss:

James Campbell and *Alexander Anderſon* being duly ſworn upon the Holy Evangeliſts, do depoſe, that they, together with *Michael Tromper*

and *Abraham Brower*, ſomewhere about the 2d or 3d day of *May*, were in company at the houſe of Mr. *Ellsworth* at *Paulus-Hook*; that while there, *John Taylor* came in, and after calling for wine, and preſſing them to drink, pulled out a good many bills, declaring that he had then five hundred pounds about him, which he had received for lands ſold by him in *Morris* County; that he had been up there twice before, and received in all upwards of ſeventeen hundred pounds, and that he expected to go up again and receive more. That theſe deponents were much ſurpriſed to hear the ſaid *Taylor* make ſuch declarations, as they took him to be in low circumſtances, and knew him to be a man of infamous character. That the ſaid *Taylor* was then armed with piſtols and a cutlaſs, and gave as a reaſon for carrying thoſe arms that he was afraid of being inſulted upon the road And the ſaid *James Campbell* further ſaith that he believes the ſaid *John Taylor* to be greatly diſaffected to the *American* cauſe, as the ſaid *Taylor* is intimate with *Gilbert Forbes* and others of the like ſtamp. And further he ſaith, that, at the time above-mentioned, the ſaid *John Taylor* pulled out a purſe, in which was gold and ſilver, about three inches deep and three or four inches in diameter; and further theſe deponents, or either of them, ſay not.

JAMES CAMPBELL,
ALEXANDER ANDERSON.

Sworn before us, the 25th day of *June*, 1776:

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

City-Hall, New-York, June 26, 1776.

The Committee met purſuant to adjournment; and, for want of room, adjourned to *Scott's* Tavern: Preſent, Mr. *Philip Livingſton*, Mr. *Tredwell*, Colonel *Graham*, Mr. *Randall*, Mr. *Ganſevoort*.

The gentlemen preſent unanimouſly choſe *Leonard Ganſevoort*, Eſq., Chairman *pro tempore*.

The Committee reſumed the conſideration of the caſe of Doctor *Samuel Martin*. The proceedings of yeſterday as to Mr. *Martin* were read; and the Committee reſumed the queſtion, the determination of which was poſtponed yeſterday, and the ſame queſtion was put by the Chairman.

And

And thereupon, *Reſolved, unanimouſly*, That it is not neceſſary to remove Doctor *Samuel Martin* from the place of his preſent reſidence, as there is not any proof offered or known to this Committee that he has broken the condition of his bond given to the Preſident of the Congreſs of this Colony on the 17th day of *February* laſt.

Reſolved, unanimouſly, That Dr. *Martin's* parole be taken that he will not, directly or indirectly, oppoſe or contravene the meaſures of the Continental Congreſs or the Congreſs of this Colony; and that his parole, together with the above mentioned bond, is ſufficient ſecurity.

Doctor Martin was called in, and ſigned a copy of his Parole, which is in the words following, viz:

New York, June 26, 1776.

I, *Samuel Martin*, of *Hempſtead*, on *Naſſau Iſland*, Phyſician, do declare, upon my honour, that I will not, directly or indirectly, oppoſe or contravene the meaſures of the Continental Congreſs, or of the Congreſs of this Colony.

SAMUEL MARTIN.

A certified copy of which Parole was given to the ſaid *Samuel Martin*. Mr. *Martin* then requeſted that ſome certificate might be given to him to prevent his being moleſted by any perſons while his conduct ſhall be agreeable to his parole.

Thereupon a Certificate was given to Mr. *Martin* in the words following, viz:

In a Special Committee of the Colony of New-York, June 26, 1776.

Whereas *Samuel Martin*, of *Far Rockaway*, in *Hempſtead*, on *Naſſau Iſland*, Phyſician, did on the 17th day of *February* laſt, give bond with ſecurity to the Prefident of the Congreſs of this Colony, with condition thereto to behave himſelf peaceably, and make no oppoſition to the meaſures of the Continental Congreſs of the United Colonies or of the Congreſs of this Colony of *New-York*, or to inſtigate others ſo to do; and whereas the ſaid *Samuel Martin* alſo this day hath given his parole to the ſaid Congreſs of this Colony that he will not, directly or indirectly, oppoſe or contravene the meaſures of the Continental Congreſs or of the Congreſs of this Colony: Therefore it is hereby recommended to all friends of the United Colonies, and to all other perſons whomſoever, not to moleſt,

left, interrupt, or disturb the said *Samuel Martin* while he continues to fulfil the condition of his said bond, and to observe and keep his parole of honour.

Ordered, That Summons do issue, &c.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

Know all men by these presents, that we, *James Matthews*, of *Matthewsfield*, in the Precinct of *Cornwall*, in the County of Orange, gentleman, and *Nathaniel Strong*, of *Blooming-Grove*, in the Precinct and County aforesaid, Esquires, are held and firmly bound unto *John Haring*, Esq., President of the Congress of the Colony of *New-York*, in the sum of five hundred pounds, lawful money of *New-York*, to be paid to the said *John Haring*, his executors, administrators, or assigns; for the payment of which sum we do bind ourselves, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals, dated the 26th day of *June*, 1776.

The condition of the above obligation is such, that if the above bounden *James Matthews* shall, on reasonable notice to him given, or left at the usual place of his abode, attend the Congress of this Colony for the time being, or a Committee thereof hereunto duly authorized and appointed, and answer such matters as may be alleged against him, and, in the mean time, shall neither directly nor indirectly contravene or oppose the measures of the Continental Congress or the Congress of this Colony, but, on the contrary, shall approve himself a good friend to the *American* cause, then the above obligation shall be void, otherwise remain in full force and virtue.

JAMES MATTHEWS,
NATHANIEL STRONG.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

I, *James Matthews*, Esquire, of *Orange* County, in the Colony of *New York*, do most solemnly declare that the claims of the *British* Parliament to bind, at their discretion, the People of the United Colonies in *America* in all cases whatsoever, are, in my opinion, absurd, unjust and tyrannical; and that the hostile attempts of their fleets and armies to enforce submission to those wicked and ridiculous claims ought to be resisted by arms; and

and, therefore, I do engage and aſſociate, under all the ties which I hold ſacred, to defend by arms theſe United Colonies againſt the ſaid hoſtile attempts, agreeable to ſuch laws and regulations as my Repreſentatives in the Congreſſes or future General Aſſemblies of this Colony have, or ſhall, for that purpoſe, make and eſtabliſh.

JAMES MATTHEWS.

New York, June 26, 1776.

Iſrael Youngs being ſworn, ſaith: That when he was firſt put into the Jail of this city, viz: about ſix weeks ago, he was confined there in the ſame room with *Thomas Vernon*, of the city of *New York*, hoſtler; that the ſaid *Thomas* aſked this deponent where he came from; deponent told him he was born and brought up in *Queen's* County; he aſked this deponent if he knew *John Hulet* and *Richard Hulet*; deponent ſaid he did, particularly *John*, for deponent's brother had married his daughter; that the ſaid *Vernon* thereupon ſpoke very freely to this deponent on the ſubject of politicks, and ſaid he would be damned if the fleet did not come ſoon and let them all out; he confeſſed to this deponent that he had ſeveral times been on board the *Dutcheſs of Gordon*, where he had ſeen *Richard Hulet* and *Thomas Cornell*; that he alſo ſeen Governour *Tryon* often, and that the Governour would talk very free with them; that they had on board a number of *Rivington's* types and one of his printers; that he had written a letter to the Governour the *Monday* before for money, and that he expected the next day to receive it; that the next day the ſaid *Thomas* received a letter which he ſaid was from the Governour, and alſo ſome water-work money, which he ſaid they counterfeited on board the *Dutcheſs*, and he himſelf had ſeen them printing it off; that they had a cheſt of it. This deponent ſays that the money aforeſaid reſembled the ſaid water-work money ſo much that he ſhould have taken it for genuine, but that the paper ſeemed to be rather thicker. The ſaid *Vernon* further told this deponent that he kept a periagua, and he uſed to go after ſand, and ſo he got on board the *Dutcheſs*.

And this deponent further ſaith: That the ſaid *Vernon* told him they were inliſting men in the King's ſervice, and that a Captain in Colonel *McDougall's* Regiment, whoſe name this deponent cannot recollect, had a commiſſion from Governour *Tryon* for that purpoſe; that a man, whom the ſaid *Vernon* told this deponent was the ſaid Captain, came one day

to

to the door of the room in which this deponent and the ſaid *Vernon* were confined, and converſed with the ſaid *Vernon* through the hole of the door, but this deponent did not overhear them; that when he went away, *Vernon* told this deponent that was the Captain who was inliſting men for Governour *Tryon*, and that he had got a hundred. The ſaid *Vernon* alſo told this deponent that he had, by Governour *Tryon's* order, engaged with *Dawkins*, an engraver, who had been taken up on a charge of counterfeiting money, to go on board the *Dutcheſs* and cut money plates for the Governour, and that the Governour was to give the ſaid *Dawkins* a hundred pounds for his trouble; and that the ſaid *Vernon* was to have carried him on board had not *Dawkins* got drunk and told him that he (the ſaid *Vernon*) was going to carry him on board, which being made known to him (the ſaid *Vernon*), he was afraid to attempt carrying him off at the time appointed, and that *Dawkins* immediately after diſappeared. The ſaid *Vernon* further told this deponent that he was in Jail with *Dawkins* before, that *Dawkins* left his cheſt open, and that he, *(Vernon)* intending to take ſomething out of his cheſt and make him treat him for giving it to him again, opened the cheſt and found in it a plate to ſtrike *Pennſylvania* money, and kept it near a week; that *Dawkins* when he miſſed it, was very uneaſy, and he (the ſaid *Vernon*) again delivered it to him.

This deponent further ſays: That when *Thomas Hickey* and *Michael Lynch*, of the General's Guards, were apprehended for money-making, they were confined in the ſame room with this deponent; that they then curſed and ſwore a great deal and damned themſelves if they would ever fight any more for *America*; that this deponent talked Tory with them, and by that means they came to confide in him; that *Hickey* and *Lynch* ſaid there were near ſeven hundred men inliſted for the King, and that the night before the fleet arrived they were to have notice of it, that they were to repair towards *King's Bridge* and join them; and that ſome of the fleet were to go up the *North River*, and another party up the *Eaſt River*, and ſo ſurround the Iſland. Deponent underſtood from them that they were both inliſted, and their names ſent on board the man-of-war. They alſo ſaid that the *Army* was very corrupt, and ſpoke very ſlightly of Colonel *McDougall's* Regiment. That when the news came to their room that the plot was diſcovered, and that the Congreſs had taken up

ſome

ſome of them, the ſaid *Hickey* and *Lynch* ſeemed to be a good deal uneaſy, but they comforted themſelves in this: *Lynch* ſaid they had not got his name, for it was gone on board the man-of-war, and *Hickey* ſaid if they had got his name it was not of his writing, and therefore neither of them could be hurt. *Lynch* further ſaid that if the guards came to be a little thinner he would make his eſcape through the windows.

ISRAEL YOUNGS.

Sworn the 26th day of *June*, 1776.

JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

Gilbert Forbes being again examined, further ſaith: That he knows one —— Silk; that he was left by Captain *Aidey* to wait upon his wife, who lives on *Long-Iſland*, ſomewhere near *Hempſtead;* that he is often in town, frequently at Mrs. *Oiry's* and Mrs. *Brandon's*, has the air of a ſoldier, wears a ſhort brown hunting coat and a double breaſted jacket of the ſame colour; that he uſed to wait on a Mr. *Miller*, who lives or lodges in Mr. *Gouvernour's* houſe on *Rotten Row;* that Sergeant *Graham* (an old ſoldier, diſcharged from the Royal Artillery) was employed by Governour *Tryon* to ſpeak to examinant about inliſting men for the King's ſervice, and told this examinant, from the Governour, that if this examinant exerted himſelf in that buſineſs and raiſed a number of men, he ſhould have a company; that the ſaid Sergeant alſo informed him that, at the requeſt of the Governour, he had ſurveyed the ground and works about this city and on *Long-Iſland*, in conſequence of which he had concerted a plan for an attack, which he had given to Governour *Tryon*, and of which the Governour approved, which was as follows, viz: that the man-of-war ſhould cannonade the battery at *Red Hook*, and while that was doing a detachment of the Army, with ſome cannon, &c., ſhould land below or about *Red Hook*, and march round ſo as to come upon the back of the batteries, near *Swedeland* Houſe; that a ſmall part of the detachment ſhould make a feint of marching up the road leading directly to the battery, but the main body were to make a circuitous march ſo as to reach the battery while our attention was engaged by the feint aforeſaid; that if they carried that battery, which they expected to take by ſtorm, they

they were immediately to attack the battery on the hill near the ferry, which the Sergeant ſaid would be eaſily done, as no embraſures were made or cannon fixed on the back ſide of it; that this latter battery, when in their poſſeſſion, would command the works on *Governour's* Iſland, which they would keep between two fires, viz: the battery laſt mentioned on the one ſide, and the ſhipping on the other; that then the ſhipping, with the remainder of the Army, were to divide, one diviſion was to run up the *North River* and land at or near about *Clarke's* farm, and march directly to *Enclenbergh Hall*, and fortify there; the other diviſion was to run up the *Eaſt River* and land in ſuch manner as to gain a footing on *Jones's Hill*, from whence they expected to command and ſilence the battery on *Bayard's Hill*; that ſhould they gain poſſeſſion of the places above-mentioned, their next object would be the grounds adjacent to *King's Bridge*, where they intend to erect ſtrong works, ſo as to cut off the communication between the city and country.

Gilbert Forbes, being further examined, ſaith: That ſome time before the man-of-war removed from the town to the *Narrows*, one *Webb*, a burr-millſtone maker, told examinant that if he had any rifles to ſell he might get a good price for them by ſending them on board the man-of-war, and that a young man who lived with *James Rivington* told him the ſame; that this examinant had then nine rifles, which he made, but they were bad and would not ſhoot ſtraight, and eleven ſmooth narrow-bored guns; that he ſent ſome of them to one Mrs. *Beck's*, a tavern-keeper, near the *Fly* Market, with orders to ſend them on board, which ſhe according did, and that the ſaid *Webb* carried the remainder; that the ſaid *Webb* told this examinant that Governour *Tryon* would give him three guineas apiece for them; that at the time when an exchange of priſoners took place with the man-of-war, and *Lilly* was, among others, exchanged, the Mayor, viz: *David Matthews*, Eſq., ſent for this examinant and told him he was going on board the Governour's ſhip, and that he would get the money due from the Governour to this examinant for the rifles aforeſaid; that on his return the Mayor told this examinant he would pay him in a few days; that this examinant never did receive any money from him for the ſaid fire-arms; that this examinant told *Charles Benſon* that he was about inliſting men, and that he told this examinant it would do.

GILBERT FORBES.

Examined

Examined by and before me, this 29th *June*, 1776.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON.

Thurſday, A. M., June 27, 1776.

The Committee met at the City-Hall, in the Council Chamber, purſuant to adjournment.

Preſent: *Leonard Ganſevoort*, Eſq., Chairman *pro tempore*, Mr. *Livingſton*, Mr. *Randall*, Mr. *Morris*, Colonel *Graham*, Mr *Tredwell*.

Mr. *Axtell* attending according to the order of this Committee of the 24th inſtant, was called in. He ſays that he is of the ſame opinion that he was when laſt before this Committee as to the ſigning of the parole which was offered to him — as his ſigning the parole might be conſtrued on the other ſide of the water an overt act, and made uſe of to forfeit his eſtate there.

Mr. *Axtell* further ſays that he is ready to give his parole not to take any active part againſt this country, or to do anything inconſiſtent with the duty of a good citizen.

Mr. *Axtell*, at the requeſt of the Committee, withdrew.

The Committee then took Mr. *Axtell's* particular caſe into conſideration; and after ſome time ſpent therein, the Committee agreed that the particular ſituation of Mr. *Axtell's* eſtate and property is ſuch as, in the opinion of this Committee, requires a particular proviſion in his caſe, which it is not in the power of this Committee to make. That therefore, this Committee will ſtate his caſe (concealing his name) to the Congreſs of this Colony for their direction in the premiſes, and, in the mean time, diſcharge Mr. *Axtell* on his parole to attend this Committee on receipt of a letter or notice for that purpoſe.

Mr. *Axtell* was called in, and informed of the preſent determination of the Committee, and promiſed the Committee to attend them again at any time on requeſt.

Mr. *Axtell* then further offered to the Committee, if it was thought neceſſary that he ſhould remove from his preſent place of reſidence, he was very ready to remove with his family up *Hudſon River*, or to any other County in the Colony, and to have limits aſſigned to him; but that it would be diſagreeable to him to remove out of the Colony. Mr.

Axtell further ſays that if all the eſtate he was poſſeſſed of was in America only, he would not heſitate to determine the matter and fully expreſs his ſentiments, which, in his opinion, it is not proper for him to do in his preſent ſituation.

Ordered, That Summonſes iſſue againſt the following perſons of equivocal character, returnable on *Saturday*, the 29th inſtant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the ſame day, viz: *Charles Nicoll*, *Donald McClean*, and *Peter Graham*.

Which ſaid ſummonſes, ſigned by all the Members preſent as aforeſaid, were delivered to the Secretary, with directions to give them to the Meſſenger to be ſerved.

Ordered, That Summonſes iſſue againſt the following perſons as inimical to the cauſe and rights of *America*, returnable on *Monday*, the 1ſt day of *July*, next, at ten o'clock in the morning of that day, viz: *Theophilact Bache*, *Charles Arden*, *John More*, Sen., and *Benjamin Williams*.

Which ſaid ſummonſes, ſigned by all the Members preſent as aforeſaid, were delivered to the Secretary, with directions to give them to the Meſſenger to be ſerved.

Ordered, That ſummonſes iſſue againſt the following perſons as inimical to the cauſe and rights of *America*, returnable on Wedneſday, the 3d day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the ſame day, viz: *Frederick Philipſe* and *Samuel Merrit*.

Which ſaid Summonſes, ſigned by all the members preſent as aforeſaid, were delivered to the Secretary, with directions to deliver them to the Meſſenger to be ſerved.

Ordered, That a Summons be iſſued to *Richard Morris*, Eſq., as a perſon of equivocal character, returnable on *Wedneſday*, the 3d day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day.

Which ſaid Summons, ſigned by all the Members preſent as aforeſaid, was delivered to the Secretary, with directions to deliver it to the Meſſenger to be ſerved.

Ordered, That a ſummons be iſſued to *Solomon Fowler*, as a perſon of equivocal character, returnable on *Thurſday*, the 4th day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day.

Which ſaid Summons, ſigned by all the Members preſent as aforeſaid,

was

was delivered to the Secretary, with directions to deliver it to the Meſſenger to be ſerved.

Ordered, That Summonſes iſſue againſt the following perſons as inimical to the cauſe and rights of *America*, returnable on *Thurſday*, the ſaid 4th day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day, viz: *Nathaniel Underhill*, *James Horton*, Jun., and *William Sutton*.

Which ſaid Summonſes, ſigned by all the Members preſent as aforeſaid, were delivered to the Secretary, with directions to deliver them to the Meſſenger to be ſerved.

Ordered, That Summonſes be iſſued to the following perſons as inimical to the cauſe and rights of *America*, returnable on *Friday*, the 5th day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day, viz: *Peter Corne* and *Peter Huggeford*.

Which ſaid Summonſes, ſigned by all the Members preſent as aforeſaid, were delivered to the Secretary, with directions to deliver them to the Meſſenger to be ſerved.

Ordered, That Summonſes iſſue againſt the following perſons as inimical to the cauſe and rights of *America*, returnable on *Saturday*, the 6th day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the ſame day, viz: *William Barker*, *Joſhua Purdy*, and *Abſalom Gidney*.

Which ſaid Summonſes, ſigned by all the Members preſent as aforeſaid, were delivered to the Secretary, with directions to deliver them to the Meſſenger to be ſerved.

Laſtly, *Ordered*, That a Summons be iſſued to the Honourable *William Smith*, as a perſon of equivocal character, returnable on *Saturday*, the 6th day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the ſame day.

Which ſaid ſummons, ſigned by all the Members preſent as aforeſaid, was delivered to the Secretary, with directions to deliver it to the Meſſenger to be ſerved.

Ordered, That the Secretary prepare a ſtate of the caſe of *William Axtell*, Eſq., (but concealing his name) to be laid before the Congreſs of this Colony for their direction in the premiſes.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

A caſe ſtated by the Committee appointed by the Congreſs of this Colony

Colony to carry into execution their Reſolutions of the 5th day of *June* inſtant, relative to perſons inimical to the cauſe and rights of *America*, and thoſe of equivocal character: A. B., holding an honorary office from the King of *Great-Britain*, and being a gentleman of fortune, was ſummoned to appear before your Committee, and appeared at the time and place for that purpoſe appointed.

On his appearance before your ſaid Committee, the Chairman informed him of the Reſolutions of this Congreſs as to perſons of equivocal character, and deſired him to give evidence of his being a friend to the *American* cauſe. The gentleman appealed to the uniform tenour of his conduct, which he ſaid, had never been unfriendly to his country. Being then aſked whether he approves of the *American* oppoſition, he replied that he did not on the whole, and ſignified a diſapprobation of the *Canada* expedition. On being aſked whether the Parliament of *Great Britain*, in his opinion, have a right to bind theſe Colonies in all caſes whatſoever, he ſaid that, in his opinion, they had not; that he fully approved of the firſt part of the Aſſociation reſolved on by this Congreſs on the 20th day of *June*, inſtant. On being aſked whether a reſiſtance, by arms, to the hoſtile attempts of the *Britiſh* fleets and armies to enforce and execute their claims and demands was juſtifiable, he declined to give an anſwer, but declared that the bulk of his fortune was in *Great Britain* and the *Weſt Indies*, and that he did not mean to take an active part on either ſide.

Your Committee thereupon reſolved that he is not ſuch a friend to the *American* cauſe as is deſcribed in your ſaid reſolutions of the 5th inſtant; that his removal from his preſent place of reſidence was unneceſſary; and that his parole, in the words directed by your ſaid reſolutions, was ſufficient ſecurity.

The gentleman aſſigned objections to give his parole, and ſaid he would ſubmit to ſuch a diſpoſition of him as your Committee ſhould make. He then had two days allowed him to conſider of the ſaid parole, at which time he returned to your ſaid Committee.

On his return to your Committee the gentleman was of the ſame opinion as before, and ſaid he could not conſent to give his parole "not to oppoſe or contravene the meaſures of the Continental Congreſs or the

Congreſs

Congreſs of this Colony;" as his giving or ſigning ſuch parole might, in his apprehenſion, be conſtrued on the other ſide of the water to be an overt act, and made uſe of to forfeit his eſtate there.

The gentleman offered to your Committee to give his parole not to take any active part againſt this country, or do anything inconſiſtent with the duty of a good citizen.

He further voluntarily offered that if it was thought neceſſary that he ſhould remove from his preſent place of reſidence, he was willing to move with his family to any County in the Colony, and to have limits aſſigned to him; but intimated that it would be diſagreeable to him to remove out of the Colony. He alſo informed your Committee that if his whole eſtate was in the *American* Colonies only he would not heſitate to determine the matter, and fully expreſs his ſentiments, which in his opinion, it is not proper for him to do in the preſent ſituation of his affairs.

Your Committee believe the gentleman to be a man of high honour and integrity; and have not the leaſt doubt but that any parole which he will conſent to give, he will hold ſacred and perform: and he is to attend your Committee again on notice. But in the execution of the ſaid reſolves they have now no alternative but a warrant and force againſt the gentleman, and confinement. The policy of this meaſure your Committee ſubmit to Congreſs, and requeſt their directions in the premiſes.

Mr. Nathaniel Underhill:

Whereas, by certain reſolutions of the Congreſs of the Colony of *New-York*, of the 5th day of *June* inſtant, we, a Committee of the ſaid Congreſs, were authorized and required to ſummon certain perſons, whoſe conduct had been repreſented to the ſaid Congreſs as inimical to the cauſe and rights of *America*, (of which number you are one) to appear before us at ſuch time and place as we might think proper, then and there to anſwer ſuch matters and things as ſhould be alleged againſt them; and to ſhow cauſe, if any they have, why they ſhould be conſidered as friends to the American cauſe: We do, therefore, in purſuance of the truſt repoſed in us by the ſaid reſolutions, ſummon you to appear before us, for the purpoſes aforeſaid, at the City-Hall of the City of *New-York*, on *Thurſ-*

day,

aay, the 4th day of *July* next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon of the ſame day. Dated the 27th day of *June*, 1776.

LEONARD GANSEVOORT,	GOUV'R MORRIS,
PHIL. LIVINGSTON,	THOMAS TREDWELL,
THOMAS RANDALL,	LEWIS GRAHAM.

Summonſes were alſo iſſued againſt the following perſons: *William Bayard*, Eſq., *William Newton*, *Frederick Rhinelander*, Mr. *Chriſtopher Benſon*, Mr. *John Woods*, Mr. *James Coggeſhall*, Mr. *Samuel Burling*, *Theophilus Hardenbrook*, Mr. *John Millner*, Mr. *Benjamin James*, *(New-York* or *Flatbuſh,) David Beatty, (Hempſtead, Long Iſland,) Linus King, (New-York,) John Baltus Daſh, (New-York,)* and *Henry Law.*

To Mr. SOLOMON FOWLER, *at* EAST-CHESTER:

Sir: By virtue of the authority veſted in us by certain reſolutions of the Congreſs of the Colony of *New-York*, of the 5th day of *June*, in the year of our Lord 1776, reciting, that whereas there are in this Colony divers perſons who by reaſon of their holding offices from the King of *Great-Britain* — from their having neglected or refuſed to aſſociate with their fellow citizens for the defence of their common rights — from their having never manifeſted by their conduct a zeal for, and an attachment to, the *American* cauſe — or from their having maintained an equivocal neutrality, have been conſidered by their countrymen in a ſuſpicious light, whereby it hath become neceſſary, as well for the ſafety as for the ſatisfaction of the people, (who, in times ſo dangerous and critical, are naturally led to conſider thoſe as their enemies who withhold from them their aid and influence,) that certain perſons in the ſaid reſolutions named, (of whom you are one,) who are generally ſuppoſed to come under the above deſcription, ſhould be ſummoned by a certain Committee to ſhow cauſe, if any they have, why they ſhould be conſidered as friends to the *American* cauſe, and as of the number of thoſe who are ready to riſk their lives and fortunes in defence of the rights and liberties of *America* againſt the uſurpation, unjuſt claims, and cruel oppreſſions of the *Britiſh* Parliament, which rights and liberties and which unjuſt claims and cruel oppreſſions, are ſpecified and ſtated in divers addreſſes, petitions, and remonſtrances, of the preſent and late Continental Congreſſes, and directing

recting certain proceedings in the ſaid reſolutions ſpecified to be by the ſaid Committee had againſt ſuch of the ſaid perſons as the ſaid Committee ſhall not adjudge and determine to be friends to the *American* cauſe: We do, therefore, in purſuance of the ſaid reſolutions, ſummon you to appear before us, at the City-Hall in *New-York*, on *Thurſday*, the 4th day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the ſaid day, to ſhow cauſe, if any you have, why you ſhould be conſidered as a friend to the *American* cauſe, and of the number of thoſe who are ready to riſk their lives and fortunes in defence of the rights and liberties of *America* againſt the uſurpation, unjuſt claims, and cruel oppreſſions of the Britiſh Parliament, which rights and liberties and which unjuſt claims and cruel oppreſſions are, as aforeſaid, ſpecified and ſtated in divers addreſſes, petitions and reſolutions, of the preſent and late Continental Congreſſes. Dated the 27th day of *June*, 1776.

LEONARD GANSEVOORT, LEWIS GRAHAM,
PHILIP LIVINGSTON, GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.
THOMAS TREDWELL, THOMAS RANDALL.

To Colonel WILLIAM ALLISON:

Whereas it is repreſented to us that *David Baldwin* of *Bergen* County, in *New-Jerſey*, but now in the City of *New-York*, can give very uſeful and important intelligence reſpecting the late diſcovered conſpiracy againſt the rights and liberties of *America:* We do, therefore, in purſuance of a reſolve of the Congreſs of this Colony, authorize and requeſt you to bring the ſaid *David Baldwin* forthwith before us, that he may be examined touching the ſaid conſpiracy.

Given under our hands this 29th *June*, 1776:

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY.

The information of Mr. *David Baldwin:* Saith he has had reaſons for ſome time paſt to believe there was a correſpondence kept up between the people of *Ramapo* and the men-of-war, as well from the temper of the people as from many words dropped from time to time. He ſays that about the 17th inſtant he was told that *Lawrence Van Buſkirk*, the miller

miller at *Ramapo*, Abraham Van Buſkirk, and a ſchoolmaſter, and Thomas Van Buſkirk, at *Saddle River*, were going on board the man-of-war; that ſomething prevented all but the ſchoolmaſter, who he verily believes did go, and that there is one *Peter Van Buſkirk* living at or near the Hook or mouth of the Kills in *Bergen* County, who, it is frequently ſaid, has followed trading with the men-of-war, who has reaſon to believe, carries people on board whenever requeſted, and has a ſuffieient eraft for that purpoſe; and that this informant came to *New-York* on purpoſe to let it be known; that on his way he ſtopped at *Erls's* in *Bergen* woods, where he was drinking tody, in company with *Francis Stephens*, late a reſident of this city, who took him (the ſaid *Baldwin)* to be friendly to the Tory ſide, when ſaid *Stephens* told *Baldwin* that there were fifty ſail of King's ſhips near the Hook and that there would ſoon be one hundred and fifty ſail at *New-York;* that *Erls* ſaid rum eame from on board the man-of-war this week; that *Stephens* charged the informant not to mention it to ſome eertain friends of his in *New-York.*

Sworn the 29th *June*, 1776, before us.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY.

Joſeph Baldwin, oppoſite the King's ſtores, tallow-ehandler, is brother to the within informant, and will go on any expedition.

Liſt of priſoners ſent by Lieutenant-Colonel CARY to *Brigadier-Generat* GREENE, *June* 29, 1776.

Joſeph Dorlant, and *John Hutchins* from *Jamaica* jail.

John Carman, reeeived powder, and abſeonded in the woods.

Andrew Allen, diſſaffeeted perſon, taken in the woods.

Jacob Lamberſon, ſound with his gun charged.

Benjamin Pedet, in the ſwamp in the fight, and had powder from man-of-ſ-war.

Ezekiel Rainer, in the woods hid.

Richard Smith, in the ſwamp battle, and had powder ſrom the *Aſia.*

Jeremiah Bedle, a diſſaffeeted perſon.

Daniel Smith, in the ſwamp battle.

Elijah Rainer, hid in the ſwamp.

Joſeph

Joſeph Beale, ſame, diſſaffected perſon.

Nathan Smith, received powder from the *Aſia*, abſconded in the woods, and appears to know much of the ſcheme.

Townſend Wicks, a damned raſcal, and the greateſt Tory.

William McKoon, *Thomas Fleet*, *John Fleet*, *Peter Wheeler*, *Samuel Townſend*, declared that they would ſooner fight for the *King* than the *Congreſs*, and totally deny the authority of that body.

James Coggeſhall, gun-ſtealer, or informer, from *Newport*.

Henry Dearling, ſaid General *Waſhington* was more concerned in the conſpiracy than any one.

To Brig. Gen. *Greene*, Head-Quarters, *Long-Iſland*.

Hempſtead, June 29, 1776.

June 30, 1776—Referred to the determination of the Congreſs of this Colony.

T. Mifflin, *Brig. Gen.*

No. 32.

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